

**Gays are patients, too**  
*Supe Katz set to announce standards for LGBT healthcare at Friday forum.*  
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**Castro landmark gets a lift**  
*Renovations under way at Harvey Milk Plaza thanks to Carole Migden.*  
**page 18**



**Joan of Arch**  
*Joan Collins talks to the B.A.R.*  
**see Arts section**



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 14 • 6 April 2000

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender communities since 1971

## Rabbis embrace same-sex unions

by Terry Beswick

**W**hile Congress, state legislatures, and voters across the country have enjoyed significant success in prohibiting gays and lesbians from marrying under civil law — thereby singling out a minority group to deny its members the equal rights and protections provided for in the U.S. Constitution — religious denominations have steadily and increasingly begun to acknowledge the value and sanctity of same-gender love and commitment.

Last Wednesday, April 29, the rabbinic body of Reform Judaism — with about 1.5 million members the largest denomination of Jews in North America — declared at its conference in North Carolina that “the relationship of a Jewish, same-gender couple is worthy of affirmation through appropriate Jewish ritual.”

While other organized religions in the United States have embraced same-sex marriage or commitment ceremonies, Reform Judaism is the first major religious denomination to do so.

“It was really an affirming moment for gay and lesbian people and their families and friends,” said an ecstatic Rabbi Denise L. Eger of Congregation Kol Ami in West Hollywood, who helped to win the resolution’s passage. “The resolution is really historic.”

Carefully recognizing a “diversity of opinion” among its 1,800 member rabbis, the Central Conference of American Rabbis resolved that while they support their clergy who “choose to officiate at rituals of union for same-gender couples,” they will also support those who do not.

The CCAR, which will be publishing educational and liturgical resources for the use of its rabbis in conducting commitment ceremonies, also called upon member rabbis to respect each other’s decisions on whether or not to officiate Jewish same-gender commitment ceremonies.

Rabbis will have the authority to decide what type of service to use if they decide to officiate at a same-sex union ceremony — and what to call it.

“Different strokes for different folks,” said Eger. “For some of us, we’ll call it a wedding. For others, we’ll call it a commitment ceremony.”

In a statement announcing the resolution, the CCAR noted that two different committees within the organization’s leadership have come up with opposite conclusions in recent years on the question of “kedushah,” or holiness, in same-gender relationships.

In a 1998 report, the Ad Hoc Committee on Human Sexuality said that

**page 16 ►**

## Kids and cake

Honorees Jewelle Gomez and Supervisor Mark Leno help Nora Emery Spiegel cut the cake at the second annual All Our Families Coalition donor reception Saturday, April 1 in San Francisco. Gomez, an award-winning poet and novelist, was cited for being the spiritual heroine of the gay and lesbian families movement and Leno was honored for his work fighting against Proposition 22.



Rick Gernier

## a B.A.R. special report

# Dangerous decibels: Dancing till deaf PART TWO

by Ed Walsh

**T**his second of three articles answers frequently asked questions and looks at the mechanism of hearing loss.

My favorite club wasn’t on your list and I’m not in the habit of carrying around a decibel meter, so how do I know if it’s too loud?

If you have to shout to be heard from three feet away, that’s a good warning sign. Temporary ringing in the ears when you leave a club is another. The director of the League for the Hard of Hearing’s Noise Center, Nancy Nadler, suggests the following test: Before you go into a club, set your car radio to a comfortable listening level on a talk radio station. When you come out, don’t touch the volume. If you have any difficulty hearing, or if the speech sounds muffled in any way, that indicates you probably experienced a temporary shift in hearing. With repeated exposure that temporary shift in hearing will become permanent and there’s nothing you can do to get it back. (For those cabbing or Muni-ing it, try the experiment with a Walkman.)

I’m okay as long as I dance far from the speakers, right?

Wrong. Of course it’s best to dance away from the speakers but you’re still in danger without earplugs. The biggest difference in sound levels was noticed at the space on 3rd and Harrison, home to several dance clubs, including City Nights and Faith. If you dance on the back of the stage above the main dance floor, you’ll save yourself about 4 decibels, but you would



The photo above, top, shows the inner ear’s cochlea with healthy hair cells. Below, the cochlea with damaged hair cells, the result of noise-induced hearing loss. The cochlea is about half as large as the nail on your pinkie.

still be well in the danger zone.

Okay, so I’m in a club already and I forgot my earplugs, is there anything I can do to protect myself? What about tissue in the ears?

Forget the tissue, it will reduce the levels only by a few decibels and could be counterproductive if it gives you a false

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## Domestic partner bills make headway

by Katie Szymanski

**M**arriage fans, don’t fret. Proposition 22 hasn’t kept us from securing equal benefits, and if the right wing is true to its word, it won’t.

Just in time to beat those post-22 blues are three bills in the California Legislature that have recently overcome their first hurdle. Lobbied by the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, the bills — which passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee 10-3 on March 28 — each provide for partnership rights and responsibilities in the event of an emergency or tragedy.

AB1990, authored by Assemblywoman Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles), provides domestic partners the right to make medical decisions for each other if either partner lacks the capacity to make decisions regarding his or her health care. For those without the resources to draw up these provisions on their own, an automatic right could mean all the difference in a crisis.

AB2047, authored by Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento), places registered domestic partners in line to inherit property if one partner dies without a will and also allows a partner to be designated administrator of his or her deceased partner’s estate. Currently, if a person dies without a will, his or her domestic partner is not entitled to inheritance. Think of Vanessa Redgrave in HBO’s *If These Walls Could Talk 2*, and the bill’s importance is evident.

Finally, from the sister in the house comes AB2211, Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl’s (D-Santa Monica) revision to the

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Sheila Kuehl

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FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS



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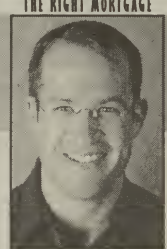
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## SOMA nightclub to close for 35 days Endup settles with ABC

by Ed Walsh

**T**he landmark Endup dance club will shut its doors for 35 days as part of a negotiated settlement with the state's Alcoholic Beverage Control and the San Francisco Police Department. The Endup's owner, Carl Hanken, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he will close his club on Thursday, April 13, and reopen Thursday, May 18.

Hanken said the settlement stemmed from three drug buys made by undercover officers last fall. Two of the buys were made inside the club and the third was made outside. Hanken said although each incident of a drug sale generally comes with a 15-day closure penalty, he was able to negotiate the total down to 35 days. Hanken said ABC agreed to be more lenient, acknowledging the Endup's efforts to curtail drug use in and around its club.

ABC's district manager, Michael Mann, said he couldn't comment on the settlement until after it had been signed. Hanken said he plans to sign it this week.

Hanken believes his club was unfairly targeted and said he considered fighting the ABC complaints but decided it would be too costly. Hanken believes undercover officers would have no problem buying drugs almost anywhere in the city. "You can go into Nordstrom's or 850 Bryant [the Hall of Justice and police



Carl Hanken, owner of the Endup, has worked for months to curb drug use

headquarters] and buy drugs if you are persistent enough."

Hanken said the 35-day shut down will settle numerous complaints against the Endup by the SFPD. Hanken said he hoped for a better relationship with the department with the Southern District's new captain, Sylvia Harper.

San Francisco police narcotics Lieutenant Kitt Crenshaw has praised the Endup in recent months for thoroughly patting down its customers at the door and posting anti-drug signs. "We've cracked down so much

lately, with the pat-downs, it's almost to the point of being antisocial," said Hanken. "And we have an extensive 86 list of people we keep out."

Hanken hopes to make the most of the closure by catching up on maintenance and repair work on the club.

The Endup is one of the oldest nightclubs in San Francisco. Hanken's late brother Al founded the club in 1973. The Endup is on Sixth and Harrison streets, just around the corner from the Hall of Justice. ▼

## Last dance at G-Spot Sat.

by Katie Szymanski

**F**or those lesbians who have trouble finding their G-spots, it's about to get even harder.

This weekend, the Girl Spot — San Francisco's longest running lesbian dance club — will shut down, quite possibly for good. The weekly party, long suffering poor attendance due to the emergence of other popular lesbian events, will go out with a bang at its regular space the Endup this Saturday, April 8, starting at 8 p.m.

"I close the doors ... with great sadness," said Mariah Hanson, the club's promoter. "But I am very grateful for my experience. I've been able to keep the club open for ten years."

The Girl Spot opened its doors January 11, 1990 at the Endup under the direction of Hanson and other pioneers, making the event the first time a prominent dance club offered a Saturday night to a



Girl Spot promoter Mariah Hanson

weekly lesbian club. The party attracted 1,000 lesbians the first night and regularly drew crowds of 650 women after that. It made its home at several spaces, including the Stud and VSF, before moving back to the Endup in 1996.

Recently, monthly dyke dance

parties such as "Club Q" and "Backstreet" began to draw many Girl Spot regulars. While these parties in themselves tend to cater to different crowds, the fact that they are monthlies made them unique and novel to quite a few Girl Spot goers.

"Twice a month, we're left almost empty," said Hanson, who said she has been struggling for about five years and decided to call it quits with the Endup's 35-day suspension. [See story above.]

Hanson, who also runs Club Skirts and the Dinah Shore weekend, said there is a possibility of reopening a similar venue in the future.

"I do, however, think the era of the Girl Spot is over. There just isn't support for it," she said.

Saturday's finale is \$8 at the door and will feature DJ Dawna Montel, who is flying in from Los Angeles. The Endup is located at 401 6th Street and can be reached at (415) 337-4962. ▼

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# TGs sought for city task force

by Terry Beswick

**M**onday, April 17 is the deadline to apply to serve on a new San Francisco task force designed to eliminate all forms of discrimination against transgender people in the city.

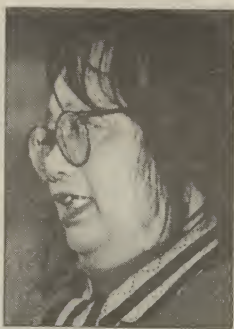
"The need for the task force has never been greater," said Supervisor Mark Leno, who authored the resolution creating the Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force.

Leno's resolution, passed unan-

imously by the Board of Supervisors in February, aims to use the city-chartered advisory group to implement the recommendations contained in a 1994 Human Rights Commission report on discrimination against the transgender community, rather than start from scratch and define the ongoing, endemic problems all over again.

"I want the word to go far and wide," Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter*, in calling for applicants.

There has been "some progress" made since publication of the 1994 report, notably the ad-



Tamara Ching

dition of "gender identity" as a protected class in the city's anti-discrimination ordinance, the board said in its resolution creating the task force, but the majority of recommendations from the HRC report have not been implemented by city departments and the private sector.

"This time we will focus on implementation," said Leno.

Including gender identity in the anti-discrimination ordinance was the "beginning of the process, not the end," said Larry Brinkin, coordinator of HRC's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and HIV Unit. "Over the five years since implementation, we've had over 200 complaints, (including) some of the most vicious and blatant discrimination we've ever seen."

Meeting monthly over two years, the task force is expected to focus on developing systemic policy recommendations to implement citywide in six major areas: employment, hate violence, law enforcement, housing, public accommodations and social ser-

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# ACT UP/SF Fools no one

by Terry Beswick

**W**as it an April Fools' Day joke, or was ACT UP/San Francisco actually apologizing "to those who have become ill or died because they accepted our advice to reject scientifically proven treatments as poisons," among other things?

"A Public Apology: AIDS Isn't Over," read the brightly colored leaflets that began appearing on telephone poles, sides of buildings, and in grocery stores in San Francisco last week.

While a spokesman for the collective of activists using the name ACT UP/San Francisco quickly claimed credit for the leaflet, calling it their little "April Fools' joke," others claimed that it was an "affinity group" of AIDS activists unaffiliated with ACT UP/San

Francisco that wrote and circulated the flier.

In any case, for those who may have been wondering, the dozen or so AIDS dissidents, animal rights activists, and medical marijuana purveyors known as ACT UP/San Francisco are not really apologizing for "resorting to physical violence," or for "calling anyone who disagreed with us liars and murderers," or for comparing HIV physicians to "Nazi torturers," and certainly not for "deliberately creating confusion about the names of groups with whom we differ," among other *mea culpas* listed on the leaflet.

"That's okay, let 'em say it's an ACT UP/SF thing," said Matthew Sharp, a longtime AIDS treatment activist and member of the non-profit Survive AIDS, the group formerly known as ACT

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# Grand Marshal Vote

San Francisco Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Pride Celebration Committee Invites You to Pick Your Grand Marshal For Your Pride Parade.

Please check 3 choices from Column A and 1 choice from Column B.

### COLUMN A. INDIVIDUALS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sup. Tom Ammiano                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Rev. Jim Mitulski       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeanne Barnett & Ellie Charlton         | <input type="checkbox"/> Comm. Pat Norman        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Margaret Cho                            | <input type="checkbox"/> James Osborn            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ellen DeGeneres                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Felicia Park-Rogers     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Melissa Etheridge & Julie Cypher        | <input type="checkbox"/> Andrea Shorter          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Page Hodel                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Michaelangelo Signorile |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rev. Jesse Jackson                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Susan Stryker       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audrey Joseph                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Keith Truitt            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon               | <input type="checkbox"/> Gov. Jesse Ventura      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rev. Cecil Williams & Janice Mirikitani |  |

### COLUMN B. ORGANIZATIONS

- ☐ AIDS Emergency Fund
- ☐ Black Brothers Esteem Program of the SFAF
- ☐ El Modena High School Gay/Straight Alliance
- ☐ Equal Benefits Advocates
- ☐ Gay & Lesbian Historical Society of Northern Cal.
- ☐ Project Open Hand
- ☐ Pro Latino
- ☐ San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus & Dr. Stan Hill
- ☐ Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
- ☐ SMMILE (Folsom Street Fair Organizers)
- ☐ Torn Waddell Health Center

Ballots should be mailed to:  
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Original ballot forms only will be accepted. No photocopied ballot forms will be accepted. Only residents in the counties of San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara and San Mateo shall be eligible to vote (1 each). Envelopes containing more than two ballots will be invalid.

Please add your name and address below to insure that only 1 ballot per person is counted.

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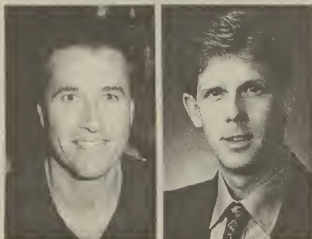
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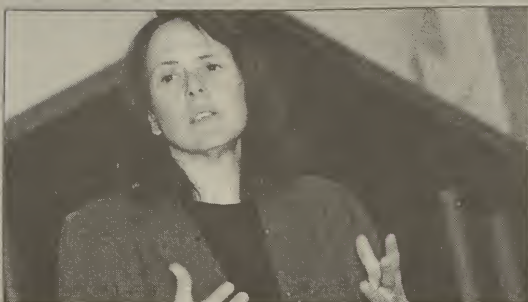
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## Lobel's farewell tour



Rick Gerhardt

Outgoing executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Kerry Lobel, made a stop Sunday, April 2 at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco and spoke about the ongoing strides that queers have made in gaining acceptance and legal rights. Lobel, who steps down from NGLTF this month, also spoke about the spiritual strength of the LGBT community.

## Police release 'new' Bodfish information

by Ed Walsh

Friends of transgender murder victim Emmon Bodfish are assailing renewed police speculation that Bodfish orchestrated his own murder. The speculation arose late last week when the Contra Costa Sheriff's office released "new" information on the case, some of which had been reported months ago in the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Investigators said Bodfish wrote a detailed diary account of his own murder while his son, suicide victim Max Wills, wrote in a journal that Bodfish was on the top of a list of people he believed should die.

Police said they analyzed two decades' worth of diaries written by Bodfish. In them, he detailed his deep depression and hatred of his body. In one of the diary excerpts released by police Bodfish wrote: "Tell body it's a stupid piece of shit that should be beaten to death." Investigators said he described in detail that he wanted to be bludgeoned to death. Bodfish's bludgeoned body was found in his Orinda home June 30. "We believe this is beyond a mere coincidence," said Sergeant Mark Hale.

Bodfish's writings refer to his negative thoughts as "Bl. D.C.,"

which police believe stands for "Blue Demon Consciousness." Bodfish wrote: "New, far more effective way to beat a 'demon.' When Bl. D.C. mouths off, go silent. Don't speak to her or about her. Don't speak. Walk over to nearest good solid object Pick it up. Come back. Hit her up the side of the head. Total silence. No comment after, either. Silence."

Bodfish died of blunt force trauma to the head.

Many of Bodfish's friends believe his writings were a simply form of therapy for him. "He wasn't talking about physically beating himself," said friend Willow Oak Istarwood. "He talked to me a lot about his demons. Demons left over from the abuse he had as a kid."

Bodfish friend Stacey Weinberger agreed Bodfish's writings should not be taken literally. "It was his way of working things out," said Weinberger.

Another Bodfish friend and one of his former caregivers, Megan Timberlake, called the police interpretation of Bodfish's writings "superficial."

Bodfish's friends don't believe Wills had anything to do with his mother's death. Instead, they think it's more likely Wills killed himself out of the sadness of losing his mother, and with his mother dead, there was no longer

any barrier preventing him from acting on the suicidal feelings that he already had.

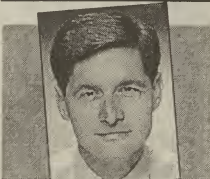
Wills was found dead in a Santa Monica hotel room a day after his mother was found dead. He had checked into the room just hours after being told by phone his mother was dead. Wills' wrists and throat were slashed. A suicide note was found in the room and for the first time police released excerpts last week. In the printed note, Wills, 33, said his "decision to leave has not been a quick one but one carefully considered since age 23. I say this so that people will not say if only someone had been there to talk him out of it, and get sad ...

"I have know [sic] that if I were to die before my mother the effect on her would be devastating," wrote Wills. "She has my predisposition to melancholy (this choice of word is too weak) and the additional crosses to bear of chronic insomnia, and headache probably much worse than mine. I was the closest person to her in her life; sadly she had few friends to turn to for comfort in her dark times."

Police say they don't consider Wills a suspect in his mother's death nor can they rule him out because they can't account for all of his time while he was vacation-

next page ►

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Mmmm ... AEF awards dinner next week

by Katie Szymanski

The Bay Area's greatest chefs – from restaurants such as the San Francisco Marriott, Splendido, Dona Tomas, Silks, Restaurant Lulu, Absinthe, and Main Street – will converge at the San Francisco Marriott next Thursday, April 13, to feed the lucky attendees of the AIDS Emergency Fund's annual awards dinner and silent auction.

"You Gotta Have Heart – a gourmet extravaganza" will honor those who have dedicated themselves to the AIDS crisis and will raise money for both AEF and its sister project, the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund. Award recipients include the GodFather Service Fund, the South of Market Merchants and Individuals Lifestyles Events, community volunteers Bill Holcomb and Robert Rawley, the Eagle bar, Daddy's bar,

and others.

AEF, which has strong ties to the leather community, is one of the few AIDS service organizations that has no paid executive director. AEF provides emergency financial assistance to people living with AIDS to help them pay rent, utility, and other vital bills. The annual dinner is one of AEF's biggest fundraising events.

Over 800 people are expected to attend the gala, hosted by cabaret diva Sharon McNight and co-chaired by Supervisor Leslie Katz and Mr. S. Leather owner Richard Hunter. The evening begins with a 6 p.m. silent auction for AEF, which features items such as an X-rated video collection worth \$2,000, art work, books, leather, and vacation packages. At 7:30, it's time to eat, honor community activists, and engage in a live auction for BCEE, which features, among other items, a Brioni suit donated by Mayor Willie

Brown.

Tickets for the gourmet extravaganza come in all shapes and sizes; individual seats are \$100, "special friend" seats are \$150, and chef's tables – which seat 10 people and include program acknowledgment and priority seating – run from \$1,500 to \$5,000. Already, sponsors are lining up; Mr. S. Leather, Wells Fargo, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Steamworks, the Edge, and the 15 Association have all made sizable contributions, organizers said.

The San Francisco Marriott is located at Fourth and Mission streets; parking for the event will be at the hotel and also at the Fourth and Mission public garage. For more information on the event or to purchase tickets, call (510) 532-7700. ▼

For information on AEF's services, call (415) 558-6999.

## Post-Knight meeting in East Bay Tuesday

by Katie Szymanski

Everyone goes through a reassessment process after a political defeat; now it's the East Bay's turn.

### Bodfish

◀ previous page

ing in Southern California. Hale said although Wills listed Bodfish at the top of a list of people he believed should die, his writings contained no animosity toward his mother. Hale said the other people on Wills's list were not people with whom Wills had any recent close contact.

Wills's friend and former roommate, Patty Ross, also doesn't believe Wills could have killed his mother. Ross told the B.A.R. that although Wills's relationship may have been "strained" at times, she doesn't believe he had the passion to kill his mother. Ross believes Wills's list of people he believed should die was a fantasy and not a hit list of people he wanted to kill.

Police hope the release of new information may help spur anyone with information to come forward to help them solve the baffling case.

"You throw it all [the evidence] into a pot and what you got is a lot of unanswered questions," said Hale. ▼

A follow-up meeting to the East Bay effort for No on Knight/No on 22 will be held this Tuesday, April 11, at 560 20th Street in Oakland. The meeting will go from 7-9 p.m. and will address election results, exit poll data and accomplishments, lessons learned from the campaign, and the next steps necessary for further progress.

Jean Harris, executive director of the California Alliance for

Pride and Equality will be there, as will Mike Clune, coordinator of the No on Knight BART leafletting campaign that took place in February. The meeting will be chock-full of activists who have made significant strides in securing lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender legislation, so anyone looking for a way to strategize and organize should attend.

For more information, call (510) 540-1191. ▼

## HIV treatment interruption to be discussed Tuesday

by Katie Szymanski

Your numbers are up and down, your body may be resisting your meds, you would never consider breaking from your treatment, you've already stopped and your blood doesn't notice.

There's a category for all persons on HIV therapies, and every last one of them is encouraged to attend "Stopping and Starting HIV Treatment," a conference hosted by Dr. Steven Deeks of the University of California, San Francisco AIDS Program this Tuesday, April 11, in Oakland.

Drug holidays and structured treatment interruption have been given much coverage in the media recently, both good and bad. While some figures indicate that a closely monitored break in HIV meds may lower resistance, other data shows drastic increases in viral loads and loss of T-cells due to interruption. Certainly the strategy will have different results in different people, and all the current information will be presented by Deeks at the Kaiser Permanente Center's Fabiola Building, 3801 Howe Street, in Oakland.

The conference is from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Parking is also free after 6 p.m. For more information, or to RSVP, call (510) 596-6848. ▼

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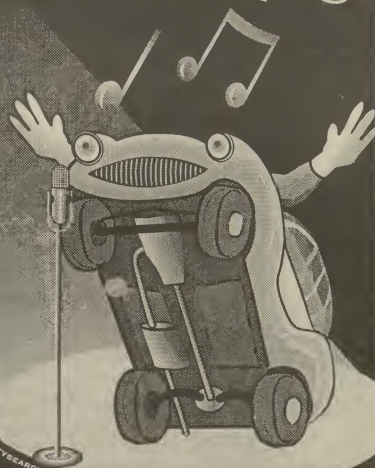
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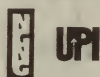
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## Rabbis rock...and other items

Another brick in the wall of anti-gay discrimination tumbled away last week when the rabbis of Judaism's Reform movement overwhelmingly approved a resolution that declared same-sex relationships were "worthy of affirmation" through Jewish ritual and that Reform rabbis who want to perform gay and lesbian weddings can do so and would have the support of the branch's rabbinical body. Coming less than a month after California voters approved Proposition 22, the resolution passed by the Central Conference of American Rabbis makes it the largest religious denomination to go on record in support of gay marriage, and clears the way for the conference's 1,800 rabbis to perform such ceremonies.

Readers may recall that in exit polls following last month's election, Jews overwhelmingly voted against Proposition 22 by 76 percent.

As with just about everything in life, there is a compromise in last week's action. The CCAR's resolution offers support for those rabbis who choose not to perform same-sex weddings, nevertheless, the declaration was hailed by gay rights activists and many rabbis as a major breakthrough in that it means "we have gone beyond a time of tolerance and acceptance to a time of embracing the souls of gay and lesbian Jews," said Rabbi Valerie Lieber, with the Gay and Lesbian Rabbinate Network, a caucus within the conference.

We hope other major religious groups — namely the Methodists and Episcopalians — soon follow the Jewish Reform movement in allowing same-sex marriages to be performed in their churches.

The CCAR was already on record as favoring a right to civil marriage for gays; the resolution adopted last week uses the term "union" to describe a gay relationship.

In an unrelated matter, news last week of the study measuring women's fingers to see if there is a relationship between finger length and being a lesbian drew chuckles from just about everyone. We first heard about the study last year, but were unsuccessful in talking with the researcher, Uni-

versity of California, Berkeley Professor Marc Breedlove, apparently because he was reluctant to discuss his study before it was published. The study raises some questions, however, as it was conducted about as unscientifically as possible at three Bay Area street fairs (including the Castro and Folsom street fairs) using a portable copy machine. Based on the data, Breedlove concluded that the average lesbian has a more masculine finger length pattern — an index finger that is considerably shorter than the ring finger on the right hand — than do straight women.

Perhaps more disturbing, however, is Breedlove's implication that prenatal androgens may influence adult sexual orientation in both sexes and that one could presumably add some hormones prenatally that could influence sexual orientation.

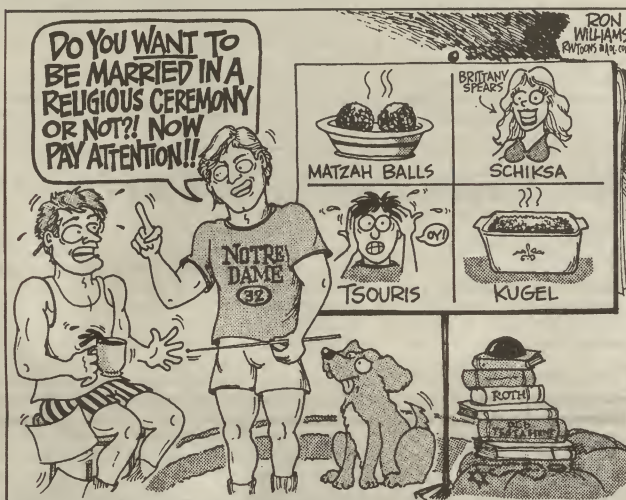
Finally, we'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Bay Area Reporter's 29th anniversary. It was in April 1971 that the B.A.R. first started appearing in gay bars around the city and over the years, the paper

has grown into one of the most widely read publications serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities. Over the years, the advances and setbacks in the fight for equal rights for the GLBT community have been told in our pages, along with the stories of thousands of people who have died of AIDS-related complications since the epidemic began in the early 1980s.

So as we quietly celebrate our 29th year of publication, we look forward to the day that we can report on finding a cure for AIDS and the day when everyone has equal rights, without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. Hopefully, we won't have to wait another 29 years. ▼



## Editorial



## See you at Starbucks April 13

by Tommi Avicoli Mecca

Coffee is as American as apple pie. Even with non-English names like "latte" and "cappuccino," it's still the preferred breakfast drink of most Americans. But how much do you really know about that "cup a Joe" you can't leave home without?

Do you know, for instance, that it's produced from the second most traded product on the world market (oil is of course the first)? The U.S. consumes about a fifth of the world's supply. It's a \$5 billion-a-year industry. About 20 million people throughout the world (in 49 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean) are employed in producing coffee.

Many are not paid a wage that they can live on, trapping them in a vicious cycle of poverty. Some farmers receive as little as \$3 a day to support a family of five. Any way you spin it, that's not a livable wage. Some farmers are only paid 50 cents a pound by middlemen, half the usual market price and almost one-third what fair trade coffee goes for.

That's why on Thursday, April 13 in as many as 25 cities throughout the country, the international human rights organization Global Exchange (which supports democratizing the world economy and putting an end to sweat shops) will organize protests in front of local Starbucks cafés to demand that the extremely lucrative chain switch to buying and offering customers fair trade certified coffee, that is, coffee that guarantees farmers a living wage.

In San Francisco, protesters will picket at 5:30 p.m. in front of the Starbucks at 18th and Castro. Among them will be members of the Lesbian Avengers, Lesbian and Gay Insurrection and the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic

Club. They will ask that Starbucks, which is the largest retailer of gourmet coffees in the U.S. (owning a fifth of the cafés nationwide and netting \$1.7 billion last year), stock fair trade coffee, which, among other things, pays farmers who are organized in cooperatives \$1.26 a pound for their coffee regardless of the ups and downs of the market; and offers them technical assistance in transitioning to organic farming, which is better for the environment.

So why should this concern queers?

Our connection to coffee is indisputable. Judging from the overflow crowds at cafés in the Castro, we consume a lot of lattes, cappuccinos, and the like. Java also is an integral part of our mating rituals. Meet a cutie and it's

only a matter of minutes before we say: "How about some coffee?" In the early days of gay liberation we even called our social gatherings "coffee hours."

On a more serious note, as a community, we understand corporate responsibility. We demand that corporations have non-discrimination policies and offer domestic partnerships. We often boycott corporations that don't. Witness the recent highly successful United boycott.

A very basic principle of corporate responsibility is paying workers a living wage. In fact, it's an issue that is in the headlines a lot these days. Some cities have already passed living wage ordinances to ensure that businesses contracting with government agencies guarantee their workers a livable salary. Many queers here in San Francisco are involved with trying to pass the living wage ordinance currently before the Board

of Supervisors. In fact, it was introduced by board President Tom Ammiano and is supported by many queer leaders. Queers will benefit from this living wage because, as we all know, we are everywhere, including in low-paying jobs.

So, too, are we in the fields of Latin America or Asia picking coffee beans. And we deserve a wage that can sustain us. Global issues belong to us because we are part of the globe. If we want a living wage here, we should also want one in other countries, especially those places that our goods come from.

Starbucks recently purchased 75,000 pounds of coffee from fair trade sources, but considering that it has 2,300 outlets nationwide (the purchase breaks down to 30 pounds per store), that amount clearly is not enough. Starbucks

also has contributed to the welfare of workers on plantations, most notably building schools and clinics. But continuing to pay non-fair trade prices only perpetuates the cycle of poverty that keeps farmers dependent on the generosity of corporations and unable to become self-sufficient.

You can help. Join us on April 13 in front of Starbucks — or write a letter to the company about fair trade coffee. Also, ask for fair trade coffee at your favorite café and your grocery. Encourage store owners to stock it.

These simple things could make a big difference in the lives of a lot of people around the world. ▼

For more information on Global Exchange, call (415) 255-7296 or visit them at [www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org).



## LETTERS

## First LBT women's health forum

San Francisco is a city of firsts. The Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Women's Health Forum is not only another in a long list of firsts for San Francisco, but this forum, with its diverse program and list of speakers, is a first for any city in the nation.

The forum, to be held on Friday, April 7 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on Union Square, was created to address the 1999 Institute of Medicine report, entitled "Lesbian Health: Current Assessment and Directions for the Future." The report details the specific health concerns facing lesbians, how service providers treat lesbians, how lesbian health problems have been documented, the research that exists in this area, and several other health concerns.

With my co-hosts Mayor Brown and Department of Public Health Director Mitch Katz, we hope this forum will make the IOM report more visible and accessible, provide education about the cultural and research needs surrounding lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women's health issues, and discuss ways to bring members of these communities together.

Though we tried to be as inclusive as possible, inviting hundreds of providers, researchers, advocates, and clients in our community as well as saving a number of spaces for the public at-large, we also knew there would be limitations of space and time. Even with those limitations, though, we have not had to turn away anyone from participating in any of the LBT Women's Health forum events. We have worked to accommodate all community members who want to attend the kickoff reception on Thursday, April 6 [tonight] at Kaiser Permanente's new medical facility, the forum itself on April 7, or the Lesbian Health Research Day at UCSF's Laurel Heights campus on April 8.

The forum was organized by many committed community members who wanted a substantive, fun, and provocative event to call attention to the specific health concerns of the LBT community. The forum proudly has confirmed a host of renowned scholars, including Kate O'Hanlan, M.D.; Cynthia Gomez, Ph.D.; Catherine Dodd, R.N.; Sandra Hernandez, M.D.; Patricia Robertson, M.D.; Audrey Koh, M.D.; and Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin. Following morning presentations by these leaders in LBT health care, the afternoon will include a myriad of breakout sessions on specific and diverse topics.

One of the major outcomes of the forum will be the discussion and future adoption of "San Francisco Community Standards of Practice for Provision of Quality Health Care Services for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Clients." This document, modeled after standards and indicators developed by the GLBT Health Access Project of Massachusetts-based JRI Health Institute, will ensure that all health care institutions, facilities, and programs understand the steps required to provide quality health care services for GLBT clients.

Because this event is the first of its kind, it will hopefully be the catalyst for smaller events throughout the city and elsewhere addressing the specific health concerns of lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered women.

We have worked very hard to encourage participation by as many people as possible. If you are interested in any of the LBT Women's Health forum events, please call (415) 554-5336 for more information.

Leslie R. Katz, Member  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

## Assaulted by noise almost everywhere

The March 30 article on noise levels at dance bars ["Dangerous decibels: Dancing till deaf"] might also have included bars, restaurants, cafes, movie theaters and even, or perhaps especially, gyms in its coverage. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find gathering places where you are not assaulted by piercing and damaging noise levels. The cacophony makes talking with friends difficult and meeting new people even more difficult. With conversation eliminated for everyone but chronic shouters, the only way left to connect is purely sexual. Sexual encounters are fine, but not when they become the only option. In addition, as verbal contact becomes too frustrating to bother with, looks get elevated to higher and higher status, putting more pressure to do whatever you can to make yourself better looking. What I find particularly troubling is the realization that as the hearing of managers, employees and regular customers deteriorates further, those who control the sound systems are likely to turn the volume ever higher to compensate.

John McCloud  
San Francisco

## What about those theaters?

Concerning the article on noise levels at dance clubs, I couldn't agree more.

I would be extremely interested in the noise level in most theaters, particularly AMC 1000 [in San Francisco]. I like fairly loud music while listening, but every time I've seen a movie lately I cringe as soon as

the previews start.

Thanks again for an interesting article.

Larry E. Fisher  
San Francisco

## Hearing loss is no joke

The article on hearing loss due to loud music in the clubs brought to mind a warning in a letter I wrote that was published in the B.A.R. about 10 years ago. After attending the now-defunct Trocadero Transfer's White Party, I told the tale of my bringing a sound meter into the club because I had complained to anyone who would listen (which was nobody at that time except the employees, the saying being "If the music's too loud, you're too old") that the volume was way too loud. As I recall, the sound level in that club was around 115 dB. I warned in my letter that any sound over 90 dB for more than a short period of time would damage hearing, and as a professional reviewer of stereo equipment, I knew that this would eventually become an issue.

I must disagree with Page Hodel and others who suggest that loud music is *de rigueur*. As a first generation club deejay of gay clubs in the 1970s, I know that we did not blast music at that time. This is a contemporary issue of ignorance.

First, it is not necessary to have extremely loud music in clubs. The problem with most speakers is that there is a region where human hearing is highly sensitive to sound. This is the 1-3 kHz region (the upper midrange/lower treble), which, in most speakers, is where the speaker designers take the shortcuts that destroy human hearing. Hence, that region is screechy, and this is the region that allows people to distinguish individual words, instead of them all sounding like mush, as Pete Avila avers in the article, as well as allowing them to hear others clearly even in environments with loud background noise. Conversely, the loudness accompanied by distortion and screechy high frequencies in clubs burns out the hearing in this very region, making it hard to hear clearly, even in quieter environments.

Club deejays play music louder in order to give a feeling of impact. Ignorance, in this case, is not bliss, because, after a while, you won't even hear it as well as you once did.

The other major culprit, concomitant with loud volume, is distortion. Distortion increases as the drivers (woofers, tweeters, midrange units) are pushed past their upper limits (the sound level at which they perform optimally). This is also a property of having poor amplification. Owners rarely pay attention to the quality or speakers or amplification.

As a reviewer for high-end stereo components, I'm aware of many speaker systems that could convey impact without harming human hearing. They also are smaller (giving more space to dance), and have a much flatter frequency response, ensuring clear powerful bass and a clearer midrange, making it easy to hear all the words without strain. I saw a reviewer state that Club Universe had a "state-of-the-art" system - highly unlikely, as a state-of-the-art system would be terrifically gentle on the ears. Any good speaker system should sound clear at lower volume levels (80-90 dB).

The other factor is that the clubs do not have adequate sound-dampening materials, so the sound ricochets off the walls and the other speakers, causing cancellations of certain frequency ranges. In other words, the music disappears and words "drop out," never to be heard (clearly) again.

Thanks to the B.A.R. for investigating this very important subject in depth. I've been warning of the dangers of hearing loss due to loud music since the days I was a club deejay. Hearing loss is no joke.

Glen McLeod  
San Francisco

## Killing off the AIDS activist movement

Your front-page article of March 23 ("ACT UP/Golden Gate changes its name to Survive AIDS") was vindication. I'm grateful that ACT UP/San Francisco's (AUSF) rotten-to-the-core politics and "medical advice" are finally being denounced head on.

What AUSF is really all about is attacking and killing off what is left of the AIDS activist movement. AUSF ringleaders Dave Pasquarelli and Michael Bellefountain weren't even in San Francisco during the early days of the AIDS crisis or the founding and later split of the original ACT UP/San Francisco that created two ACT UPs in the city.

When they began their political franchise as "DNCB Now!" and later AUSF, those of us who were active in regional ACT UP chapters tried at first to meet with them to cooperate on common initiatives. But such meetings were failures because, aside from their faulty analyses, they mainly used these meetings to launch infantile tirades, and they regularly directed their harshest venom - personal and political - at activists in the room.

Many tried ignoring them, in the hope that they

next page ►

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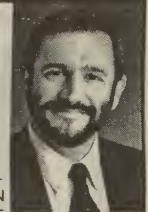
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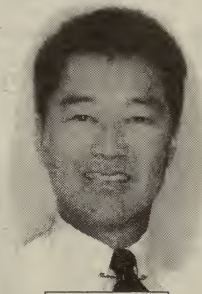
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## Mailstrom

◀ previous page

would dry up and blow away. Instead they were given a huge grant by PETA in order to oppose animal research — especially AIDS research — and then got into the lucrative medical marijuana business. Pasquarelli, Bellefontaine, and Ronnie Burk have parlayed their gain into a huge retirement plan for themselves.

What a shame that the genuine research activists with community ties must hold the proverbial "bake sale" to raise funds, while the renegade AUSF has over \$1 million to spread misinformation through slick propaganda (*Magnus* magazine, advertising, and posters), promote confusion, and attack PWAs.

What a shame the ACT UP network didn't hit back sooner and expose AUSF. Had we taken them on with the gusto we took on the drug companies, everyone would've seen through them. Their mantle as "alternative" and "challengers of orthodoxy" would've been smashed to bits. Better still, their alleged science would've been pulled out from under them.

AUSF and HEAL fall back on the tired old Duesbergian themes that were knocked down a long time ago. I'll never forget the day I caught Peter Duesberg on a radio call-in show, where he said he was going to inject himself with HIV to show it was harmless. I was the caller who offered him the blood to do it. You've never seen anyone balk so fast; he was so flustered he didn't know what to say. Duesberg and his followers still have nothing new or helpful to say after 10 years of grandstanding.

AUSF has a long track record of doing the most to make life difficult for PWAs around the world:

They hurt the reputation of ACT UP and genuinely radical activism, by their crazed and bizarre antics. The fact ACT UP/Golden Gate had to change its name — to a less catchy one, at that — is evidence enough that AUSF has poisoned the atmosphere and sullied the reputation of ACT UP chapters nationwide.

They hinder "Healthgap to Africa" work, which is a current focus of the ACT UP network. AUSF reportedly will go to the International AIDS conference in Africa to promote their Duesbergism. Their logic boggles the mind, but fortunately Africa's experience with AIDS is one of the best examples of why AUSF is bound to fall flat. After all, if HIV isn't a deadly virus and the cause of AIDS, how come so many Africans who happen to have the virus are dying, when it appears they would not otherwise? If HIV drugs are so toxic and not helpful in managing the disease, how come people in Africa who don't have access to them are dying at such a high rate, whereas those in other continents who do have access are living longer and generally healthier?

They hurt the health of PWAs in America by spreading confusion about HIV and bad medical advice. They jeopardize the health of people who are still HIV-negative by telling them they don't need safer sex.

The saddest part of all is the impressionable young people who follow AUSF and may go on to contract HIV and get AIDS, because AUSF told them it was harmless.

We in the East Bay have Duesberg himself to fight against. We are fortunate Messrs. Pasquarelli, Bellefontaine, and Burk are loathe to come over here. The shadow of AUSF's corrupt politics doesn't make our work any easier. Thank the goddess for Survive AIDS and the former ACT UP/Golden Gate. These are our war veterans from the front lines of the fight against AUSF.

Jonathan Winters  
Founding Member, ACT UP/East Bay  
Oakland, California

### Where's the debate?

[The following was sent to Jeff Getty:]

I find it ironic that you et al continuously choose to attack and defame ACT UP/SF because of their dissident views concerning HIV and AIDS. And in a feeble attempt to divert people's attention away from what they have to say, you et al consistently draw attention to the pot dispensing club that they run and how much money they supposedly make. What does their pot club have to do with anything?

It would be fair to suggest that the whole AIDS industry, including Survive AIDS, profits enormously off the fear of HIV and AIDS, which is orchestrated and mass marketed by ASOs, pharmaceutical companies, and the media directly to the gay community.

This in turn sends the very same people who listened to you, trusted your word, and started taking AZT and protease inhibitors to find their way to ACT UP/SF's pot club in search of relief from the high toxicity levels and horrendous deformities being caused by the drugs you et al previously encouraged them to take.

In the beginning of AIDS history, ACT UP was born out of the concept of urgency and militancy by using direct action to get the drug companies to "speed up the process" of getting AZT approved and to get people to listen to our pleas. Without knowing the serious, deadly side effects and high toxicity levels, thousands and thousands of gay men ended up succumbing to the exceedingly high levels of AZT and

other drugs used to counter the side effects of AZT, being prescribed.

In 1992 AIDS and AIDS-related deaths were on the decline. This was several years before protease inhibitors were marketed to the gay community. The increase in AIDS cases happened when the CDC added to the definition of AIDS and blamed these increases on a "mutant virus." Since then, the CDC has changed the definition of AIDS a couple more times and again, this increase is blamed on a "mutant virus."

I find it arrogant for Survive AIDS et al to refuse this debate and to make it a non-important issue when there are serious questions to be asked.

Wouldn't you like to ask why the Elisa and Western Blot tests are non-standardized from country to country, why they are read differently between labs, why they test for proteins not a virus and that the test can have a positive reaction to over 70 other things, including pregnancy?

And what about these facial and body deformities that have been increasing with the use of protease inhibitors?

It was also revealed a few weeks ago in the B.A.R. that protease inhibitors have been found to accelerate the age process and cause osteoporosis. Along with this new revelation, there have been cases of liver, kidney, heart failure and death directly resulting from the very same drugs that are supposed to be helping us live.

Furthermore, have you ever asked yourself why the scientific establishment uses a magnification device (PCR) in order to see the HIV virus that is supposed to be so prevalent in the body? Did you know that this specific test has never been FDA approved for this type of use and that Kary Mullis, who invented this test, has time and again explained that the PCR is being used incorrectly by the AIDS establishment?

So where is your conscience while this bodily destruction is happening right in front of your faces? Where is your independent, critical thinking and why are you not asking questions?

Steven D. Keller  
San Francisco

### Jeff Getty responds:

As usual your comments are full of inaccuracy and twisted facts taken out of context. Interesting to hear a call for open debate with the very people who have harassed, threatened, and intimidated sick people with AIDS like myself for years. How does one debate people who literally spit in your face and scream murderer at just about everyone? Sorry Keller, but open debate disappeared when David Pasquarelli and Michael Bellefontaine drove all the PWAs out of ACT UP/SF and declared AIDS to be a myth.

### Why we should care about Elián

Most readers of this newspaper probably feel that the issue of whether Elián González is reunited with his father in Cuba has little to do with them. Most of us have not had the heart-wrenching experience of being involved in a child custody battle and many of us would think twice about sending a child back to a country that is perceived as being repressive, especially to its gay population. After numerous trips to Cuba where I had the opportunity to challenge all the misinformation in this country in regards to Cuba, I can tell you that I would feel more free as a gay man living in Cuba than in many of the states in the U.S. and most of the countries of the world.

My purpose, however, is not to debate politics as it should not be in the case of Elián. The focus should be on the rights of a parent and plenty of gay men and lesbians can sympathize with the plight of Elián's father, Juan Miguel González. Not even the Miami Cubans are claiming that he is not a good, loving father only that he has made the horrible mistake of being born in Cuba and staying there. Like in the case of many gay parents, custody battles are lost simply because they are born homosexual and choose to live that way, not because they are seen as being bad parents.

But the aspect of the Elián case that disturbs me most and should disturb anyone who has suffered as a result of a strict religious upbringing, is that he is being sent to a private right-wing Catholic school, against the wishes of his sole surviving parent, where he is taught that homosexuality is a terrible sin against nature. This is not to say that in Cuba he would be taught that homosexuality is a good thing, but I have visited schools and talked to teachers there, and I can assure you that it is not part of the curriculum to revile homosexuality. In fact there is a growing movement among psychologists to include homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle. In this Miami school, on the other hand, Elián could learn to be a future fag-basher and/or in the case that he is homosexual himself learn self-hatred with all its destructive ramifications.

It also should come as no surprise that those who are paying for his schooling and the campaign to force him to stay in this country also contribute heavily to right-wing organizations and the campaigns of our arch-enemies in Congress such as Jesse Helms. This fact alone should tell us that those surrounding Elián in Miami are much more motivated by their political vendetta against Castro than the welfare of the boy.

Vincent Meis  
San Francisco



# Log Cabin Republicans to meet this weekend

by Wayne Friday

The California Log Cabin Republicans will hold its annual state convention this weekend, April 7-9, at the La Casa del Camino Hotel in Laguna Beach. The statewide Log Cabins, comprised of eight chapters, including a new one recently chartered in Sacramento, is probably the strongest and most active of any of the state chapters, and the meeting this weekend will include the usual political workshops, luncheons, dinners with GOP speakers, political interchanges, and very likely a discussion as to when – or if – the state group will eventually endorse Texas Governor **George W. Bush**, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee.

While several state Log Cabin members told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Arizona Senator **John McCain** was "clearly the heavy favorite" among its state members in last month's primary, which was, of course, eventually won, along with all of the state GOP delegates, by Bush, there remained some doubt as to whether the state organization would endorse the Texas governor in November. Bush has his supporters, limited though they may be, among gays and lesbians in California; indeed, there will be two delegates and four alternates to the July GOP convention in Philadelphia already pledged to Bush from the state Log Cabin Republicans.

In light of Bush's continuing mixed signals from his Austin headquarters as to whether he would meet with any Log Cabin members, let alone actually seek an official endorsement from the group, it remains to be seen if the national group of Log Cabin clubs will actually endorse a presidential candidate this year. Many Log Cabin members continue to be troubled by the reports out of Austin that there are widespread differences among Bush operatives as to whether a meeting with gay and lesbian Republicans is actually desired or even thought to be politically smart, particularly in view of the feeling that to hold such a meeting would only infuriate Bush's supporters among the more-important Christian right. One source in the Bush camp actually went so far as to admit last week that **Pat Robertson** had "warned" the Bush camp against ever meeting with the Log Cabin group; that same source indicated that she feels Bush himself feels it is not worth the chance that his right-wing Christian supporters would be offended by such a meeting.

Numerous San Francisco members of the local Log Cabin chapter will attend the weekend Laguna Beach convention; state Senate GOP minority leader **Jim Brulte** of San Diego will address a Saturday luncheon and Secretary of State **Bill Jones**, who switched his support from Bush to McCain only weeks before the all-important March 7 primary, will be guest speaker at a dinner Saturday night. Jones, the highest elected Republican statewide official, is

often mentioned as a candidate for governor, but his current standing with national Republicans and the Bush campaign makes a run for governor in 2002 less likely. Information on this weekend's Log Cabin convention can be obtained by calling David Hansen, the state Log Cabin chair, at (714) 328-4242.

## Politics and people

Some reports have it that a gay or lesbian judge could be among those San Francisco appointments (currently, there are five openings) awaiting Governor **Gray Davis's** approval.

And my Sacto sources tell me that despite the governor's recent "interim" appointment of **Susan Burr** as the secretary of education, Marin's termed out Assemblywoman **Kerry Mazzoni**, one of the Legislature's best, could eventually end up with that job on a permanent basis.

Not too early to be talking about San Francisco's next mayoral race, I guess, since the job is always a subject of interest when more than three or four political junkies get together in the city, and the conversation at a recent fundraiser was no different. First, there's the one being circulated that state Senator **John Burton** wants a term as mayor after **Willie Brown's** second term is over; former supe **Angela Alioto** is telling everyone that she will "definitely" go the next time around; wealthy Pacific Heights-area supe **Gavin Newsom** is known to be very much interested in replacing Mr. Brown; Board of Supervisors President **Tom Ammiano** is being urged by many of his fans to make another try and is said to be "seriously" thinking of doing so; and termed-out supe **Barbara Kaufman** reportedly is interested at throwing her hat (never seen her wear one, actually) into the race. Then, again, many political types – gay and straight alike – are saying that Assemblywoman **Carole Migden** is a "natural" and would make a great mayor (frankly, I couldn't agree more), and of course, there are always the perennial candidates who run to see their names on the ballot. With Mayor Brown unable to seek a third term because of term limits, the next mayoral race is sure to be a free-for-all, but are we really in such a hurry for this one?

The race for U.S. Senate in November between incumbent **Dianne Feinstein** and GOP challenger Representative **Tom Campbell** is well under way despite little media coverage this early; both sides are busing building up campaign war chests, lining up big-name supporters and fundraisers, and getting ready to take to the television airwaves very soon. This one will likely be a huge effort though Campbell is unlikely to have really deep pockets like Feinstein's last GOP opponent, **Michael Huffington** (\$28 million) did. Campbell's camp is already complaining that Feinstein's commanding high poll numbers is causing him hardships in the fundraising department, even among some Republicans.

Other Campbell problems: he's for taxing the Internet (wait until his home base of Silicon Valley gets word of this one); he voted for impeachment of President Clinton (a very unpopular California vote, even in his home district), is thought to be pro-gay, pro-choice, and favors an experimental drug giveaway program (all stands the GOP opposes), then there's this thing Campbell, like his two GOP predecessors, **Pete McCloskey** and **Ed Zschau**, has about Israel (Campbell can hardly be called pro-Israel). And there's the obvious big problem Campbell has – California voters' seeming love affair with the enormously popular Feinstein (even Republicans, particularly GOP women, like her).

Memo to gay and lesbian voters in Los Angeles – I realize District Attorney **Gil Garcetti** might not be the smartest lawyer you've ever known (in San Francisco, we can tell you about inept prosecutors) but the November runoff in that city pits Garcetti against a very conservative Republican challenger, Assistant District Attorney **Steve Cooley**; gay and lesbian political leaders in Los Angeles are reportedly already advising their people that "the devil you know is clearly better than the devil you don't know."

And did you catch the bizarre interview in last week's *SF Weekly* with District 3 supe candidate **Rose Chung** ("A Republican by any other name")? Chung, a pro-choice Republican, says she's heard that **Tom Ammiano** and **Terence Hallinan** are Marxists (hmm, won't touch that one); strongly supported last month's Proposition E because she thinks 70 percent of the city's homeless are drug abusers; she pays property taxes in San Jose but claims residency here since she crashes at her mom's North Beach home during the week; supports Bush for president, and has **Doug Comstock** for her campaign manager. Enough said? Looks like **Lawrence Wong's** chances of becoming a supervisor from District 3 improve each time they interview one of his opponents.

Absolutely, I'm among those who think Vice President **Al Gore** came off as pandering in his **Elías González** stance, but this is all about politics folks, and Bush cannot win the presidency without Florida, where some polls now show Gore slightly ahead despite Bush's brother **Jeb Bush** being the governor there.

In a major break with his own party (as well as with the state GOP) Governor Davis last week urged the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold this state's open primary elections, which allow voters to cast ballots for candidates of any party in primaries; in the 1998 primary, Davis attracted many GOP voters which gave him invaluable momentum heading into the general election that year, where he won by a 20 percent plurality.

Finally, my "Quote of the Week" from CBS late night host **David Letterman** to NBC News anchor **Tom Brokaw**, discussing the integrity (or lack thereof) of the presidential candidates – Letterman to Brokaw: "In your heart, Tom, you know that George W. makes **Dan Quayle** look like **Winston Churchill**."

And how was your week? ▼

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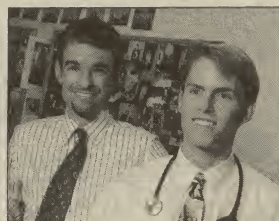
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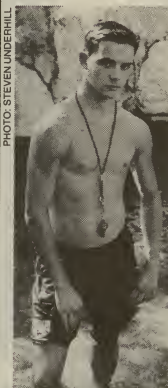
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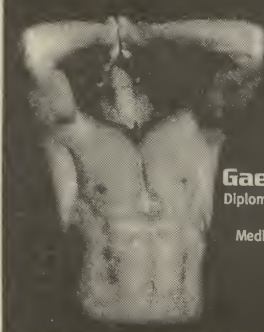
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# HBO: No lesbians

compiled by GLAAD

**H**BO, in conjunction with its television special, *Cancer: Evolution to Revolution*, which premiered March 30 and repeats several times in April, is running a cancer resource site on its Web site ([www.hbo.com](http://www.hbo.com)). The comprehensive posting covers many cancer topics and offers a listing of groups for information and support.

While this effort to supply people with more than just a show to watch is admirable, HBO failed to include the Mautner Project for Lesbians With Cancer in the resource listing. When representatives of the project brought this oversight to HBO's attention, they were told many groups wanted to be included, but not all could be. Yet there was room for Look Good...Feel Better, a group "dedicated to providing female cancer patients with beauty and coping techniques to help restore their appearance and self-image during cancer treatment."

As of this publication date, after being contacted several times by Mautner and others, HBO is still refusing to add Mautner to the list. It has, however, decided to add a discussion site to the Web site where people can post information about Mautner and anything else they want.

Please contact HBO and request it reconsider its position. The Web site information is scheduled to be up for a few months. Adding Mautner to the

resource list is a simple matter of a few key strokes by a programmer. This small investment of time and effort on HBO's part could help save lesbian lives.

Contact Bill Mesce, Director of Consumer Affairs, HBO, 1100 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036, telephone, (212) 512-1208, e-mail through [www.hbo.com](http://www.hbo.com).

## American Justice shows none

On March 29, A&E's *American Justice* aired "The Life and Death of Teena Brandon," a program about Brandon Teena, the transgendered youth who was murdered and who is the subject of the award-winning film *Boys Don't Cry*.

Although producers of the *American Justice* show consulted with GenderPAC, a national organization for transgender rights, it says producers ignored advice given by the group about how to present Brandon Teena's gender identity. Throughout the show, the host refers to the subject as "girl posing as a man" and describes how Brandon Teena was "killed when she was exposed." The show did not acknowledge his self-identified gender.

Additionally, GenderPAC says when it said the title was inappropriate and needed to be changed to "The Life and Death of Brandon Teena," producers said no.

Please let both Towers Productions and A&E Television Network know the importance of respecting an individual's gender identity and to stop furthering stereotypes that lead to discrimination and violence against the transgender community.

Contact Towers Productions, 549 West Randolph St., Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60661, fax (312) 993-1533; Nickolas Davatzes, President, A&E, 235 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017, fax: (212) 210-9755, e-mail through [www.aande.com](http://www.aande.com).

## Discovery Channel discovers intersex

As one interviewee says in the documentary *Is it a Boy or a Girl*, "I'm neither. I'm between." So sums up the common feeling of intersex people, those born with anatomy or physiology that differs from cultural ideals of male and female. According to Intersex Society of North America Executive Director Cheryl Chase, five intersex babies a day are surgically altered at the presiding doctor's discretion everyday in the United States.

Today, the intersex community is organizing and stepping forward to say these surgeries are often cosmetic, unnecessary, and subjective. Intersex activists want medical community members to rethink what they do when an intersex baby is born.

On March 26, the Discovery Channel aired Phyllis Ward's documentary, an hour-long look at the hormonal and genetic causes of ambiguous or combined genitalia, the procedures used to "correct" the conditions, and the lives of those affected as they grow up and learn what happened to them as babies.

In often heart-felt, first-person interviews, the people explain how they feel they were harmed by the initial and often subsequent surgeries and denied the opportunity to make their own choice about what sex to identify as. It also details the complexities faced by parents who are often forced to make quick decisions about what their baby's sex should be.

It is unfortunate that the first showing was on the same night as the Academy Awards. The next scheduled airing is on Mother's Day, May 14, a date that also could limit the number of people tuning in.

Contact Tomi Landis, Executive Producer, The Discovery Channel, 7700 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814-3578, fax: (301) 986-4626, e-mail: [Tomi\\_Landis@discovery.com](mailto:Tomi_Landis@discovery.com)



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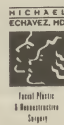
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# Free speech for Dr. Laura

by Dale Carpenter

With all the hullabaloo over a few gay activists' demands to cancel Dr. Laura Schlessinger's new TV show, you'd think there's a great threat to free speech afoot. There isn't. Instead, what we have is free speech at work.

Thanks to a deal with Paramount, Dr. Laura — who says homosexuality is a "biological error" and counsels "reparative therapy" to cure it — will soon be seen on 160 TV stations reaching 90 percent of American homes.

Grant that Dr. Laura's views about homosexuality are odious. Therefore, some activists want Paramount to cancel her show. But if we believe in free speech, should we really demand that she be taken off the air? There are essentially two types of arguments that hold we should not. One is bad, the other better. Both are wrong.

Argument No. 1: "Urging Paramount to cancel Dr. Laura's show violates her right to free speech. It's censorship." This style of argument — commonly aired in debates over bigoted public comments from people like baseball pitcher John Rocker and former football player Reggie White — is what results when a solid legal principle becomes pudding.

The First Amendment prohibits government from restricting the free flow of ideas. It does not immunize individuals from the consequences of what they say, like being criticized or losing friends, money, or even their jobs.

You say what you want and accept the result.

There is no guaranteed constitutional right to host a national television program. If Paramount cancels Dr. Laura's TV show, she's free to stand on a soapbox in the middle of Central Park and denounce homosexuals all she wants. I invite her to do so, late one summer evening.

Nobody is asking the government to order Dr. Laura off the air. Her legal freedom to speak is not the issue.

Argument No. 2: "Okay, it's not the law of free speech that's at stake, it's the underlying principle of free speech. We should encourage, not discourage, the expression of diverse viewpoints and robust debate in a democracy because that makes us stronger."

This is a better argument. It adopts a common and defensible theory of the function of speech in a free society: There is a "market" for speech in which consumers (citizens) should have wide choice among products (ideas). The maximization of those choices helps ensure the winners will be the best available contenders.

There is indeed a market for speech, just as there is a market for food, housing, and entertainment. Except for a few isolated pockets of the world — China, Cuba, San Francisco — markets are generally viewed as preferable to the alternatives.

In every market, however, con-

sumers pass judgment. They typically do this by deciding whether to buy a given product. They can also express their views on it with varying degrees of intensity, by buying a lot of the product or urging others to do so, for example. If they dislike the product, they can do more than simply refuse to buy it — they can also tell others why they dislike it and even urge them not to waste their money on it.

Those who embrace Argument No. 2 agree that we citizens, like consumers, should be able to pass judgment on Dr. Laura's product. No one says the free speech principle means we must watch ("buy") Dr.

Laura's show. Turning up the heat, practically everyone concedes we are justified under the free speech principle to criticize her harshly — even to ridicule her — for what she says. But they say the next step, explicitly lobbying Paramount to take her off the air, is beyond the pale.

The argument, then, is entirely over the level of intensity that citizens in a democracy should use in opposition to ideas they loathe. It's clear, even under the rationale of Argument No. 2, that we can so publicly berate Dr. Laura that she will lose the respect of her bosses at Paramount, then lose viewers, and then be taken off the air. But we can't explicitly say we want that result. In other words, under Argument No. 2, we may urge indirectly what we may not urge directly. That's a thin line to defend.

What Argument No. 2 also

says is this: Dr. Laura is free to express her views at any degree of intensity she likes and that's good for us, even if her ideas are odious, because we need diverse views, etc. But, at the same time, those who oppose her intense views must restrain the intensity of their opposition because that's bad for us.

What happened to diversity and robust debate? In the battle of ideas, it seems, one side may go nuclear and the other must stay conventional.

A truly free market of ideas reflects not only the number of citizens who hold a particular view but also the intensity with which they hold it. This includes the intense view that gays should be "repaired" and the opposite intense view that those who say such things shouldn't be given a platform to say them to a potential audience of 230 million people.

For decades, Dr. Laura and her ilk successfully argued that positive portrayals of gay people should be kept off the air. They succeeded because the speech market at the time supported their demands. Now that the culture has shifted and it's her turn to face a hostile market, Dr. Laura wants free speech. Let her have it. ▼

Dale Carpenter, an attorney, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutRight@aol.com](mailto:OutRight@aol.com). For more Outright, visit [www.planetout.com](http://www.planetout.com).



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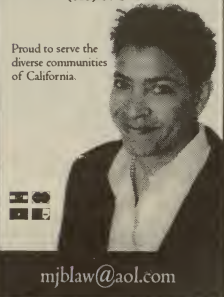
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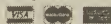
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**Celebrating the Body Erotic Bay Area - April 15-16**

## Ped X-ample

by Jane Warner

**C**astro and Market, March 30, 7:45 p.m.: A woman was crossing the intersection at Castro and Market early last Thursday evening and was struck by an oncoming car. The driver stopped to render aid and the victim was taken to the hospital where she was listed in critical condition with numerous internal injuries and a broken back. Details on the cause of the accident were unavailable.

Remember to be careful when crossing the street; pedestrians do not always have the exclusive right of way. Here are a few tips on safer crossing:

1. Count only on yourself to be safe.

2. Stepping suddenly into the street from between parked cars puts you at greater risk.
3. It is safer to cross at controlled intersections.
4. Look both ways before stepping into the street, even if there is a walk signal.
5. Never cross against a red traffic light.
6. Don't wait on the corner by standing off the curb. Motorists turning right may not see you and have the right of way.
7. When the red hand starts blinking or the yellow caution light appears, it's time to find a curb or a divider, don't try to make it across.
8. Crossing mid-block in a residential section is legal, but do not cross in a diagonal direction that places oncoming traffic behind you.
9. Beware of vehicles turning right into your crosswalk. Often the driver is looking left as he/she steers to the right.
10. Just because you have the right of way doesn't mean you are safe. Don't rely on the driver.

### Assisted call

15th and Guerrero, March 31, 9:20 p.m.: A man was using a pay phone at 15th and Guerrero when he was approached by man from behind who put his hands in the victim's pockets and pulled out his money. The victim fought back, but was overtaken by the suspect's friends, who kicked and punched him several times. The man managed to get away and ran to Mission police station where he reported the incident. Responding police found the suspects in the area and arrested them near the scene. Booked for robbery were Tyrell Johnson, 20, David Denson, 21, and Jermaine Lewis, 20.

### Grab bag

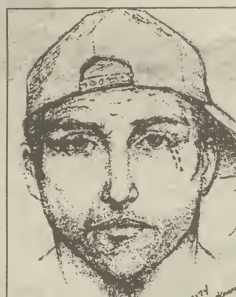
531 Castro, March 27, 4 p.m.: A man entered the Patio Cafe, walked over to a counter where money had been left to pay a bill, and placed a Walgreens shopping bag on top of

it. He then walked away, came back a short time later, and slid the bag off the counter, taking the money underneath it. The thief left with about \$35.

A short time later, Fuzio staff reported the suspect attempted the same scam at their restaurant but was unsuccessful. Suspect is described as African American, 35 years old, 5 feet 8 inches tall, weighing 160 pounds, wearing a black ski hat and dark clothing.

### Police release rape suspect sketch

In a sexual assault reported in the *Bay Area Reporter* in February, a woman outside the Cafe on Market Street was crying when a man approached her and offered to help her get home. The woman



Courtesy of SFPD

accompanied the man to an apartment on the 2300 block of Market Street, where he allegedly raped her. The suspect is described as a white male, 30-35 years old, with five to six teardrop tattoos down his left cheek and a flowery tattoo on his right forearm. Police have released the above sketch of the suspect; if you have any information call (415) 553-1071. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

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# Going the distance

*If you're HIV+,  
CRIXIVAN  
may help you  
live a longer,  
healthier life.*

## ■ HIGHLY EFFECTIVE THERAPY

CRIXIVAN in combination with antiretroviral agents is a powerful protease inhibitor that fights HIV and is among the preferred treatments for HIV in federal healthcare guidelines.<sup>1</sup> CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV; CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 T-cell count, as shown in studies over a one-year period. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.

## ■ DURABLE RESULTS

In a landmark study, over 90% of 31 patients receiving a combination of CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks. Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one-year mark. In a separate study, 30% of 261 patients receiving dual therapy of CRIXIVAN and AZT had serum viral loads below the limit of detection at 48 weeks. In another landmark study, 43% of 40 patients receiving combination therapy with CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC had plasma viral loads below the limit of detection at 40 weeks. In this study of over 1,000 patients, the group of patients receiving CRIXIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. Overall, the number of deaths was inadequate to assess the impact of CRIXIVAN on survival. Blood viral loads were measured by available tests and the virus may still be present in other organ systems.

## ■ THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CRIXIVAN

CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems.

As with other protease inhibitors, changes in body fat, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia, and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Additionally, severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients also taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.

For more detailed information about CRIXIVAN, please read the information immediately following this advertisement.

<sup>1</sup> Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 5, 1999.

[www.crixivan.com](http://www.crixivan.com)



**Remember to ask your  
doctor about CRIXIVAN.**

**CRIXIVAN<sup>®</sup>**  
(indinavir sulfate)  
Capsules





## Patient Information about CRIXIVAN® (KRIK-sih-van)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection  
Generic name: indinavir (in-DIH-nuh-veer) sulfate

9024510

Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, read the leaflet each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

### What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

### How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

### How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor.** Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays". If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, every day.** It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. **If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.** However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. **Take CRIXIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.** Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include: dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want) or corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar.
6. **Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein** (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.
6. **It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquids (preferably water) throughout the day, every day.** CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones. Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

### Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

### Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

### Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

### What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
- You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN.

Also talk to your doctor if you have:

- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
- Problems with your kidneys.
- Diabetes
- Hemophilia
- High cholesterol and you are taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins".

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines.

**This medication was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.**

This leaflet provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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### Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?\*

#### Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine) HISMANAL® (astemizole)  
VERSED® (midazolam) HALCION® (triazolam)  
PROPULSID® (cisapride) Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Catergot®)

Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

#### Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT) EPIVIR™ (lamivudine, 3TC)  
ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T) isoniazid (INH)  
BACTRIM®/SEPTA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole) DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole)  
BIAXIN® (clarithromycin) ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)  
TAGAMET® (cimetidine) Methadone

VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.

MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.

NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

RESCRIPTOR® (delavirdine) — If you take CRIXIVAN with RESCRIPTOR®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

SPORANOX® (itraconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SPORANOX®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SUSTIVA®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

### What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors, including CRIXIVAN, together with some of the cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins". Call your doctor if you develop severe muscle pain or weakness.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

#### Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

#### Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: allergic reactions; severe skin reactions; yellowing of the skin and/or eyes; heart problems including heart attack; abdominal swelling; indigestion; inflammation of the kidneys; inflammation of the pancreas; joint pain; depression; itching; hives; change in skin color; hair loss; ingrown toenails with or without infection; crystals in the urine; painful urination; and numbness of the mouth.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

### How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°- 86°F).
- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.



**CRIXIVAN®**  
(indinavir sulfate)  
Capsules

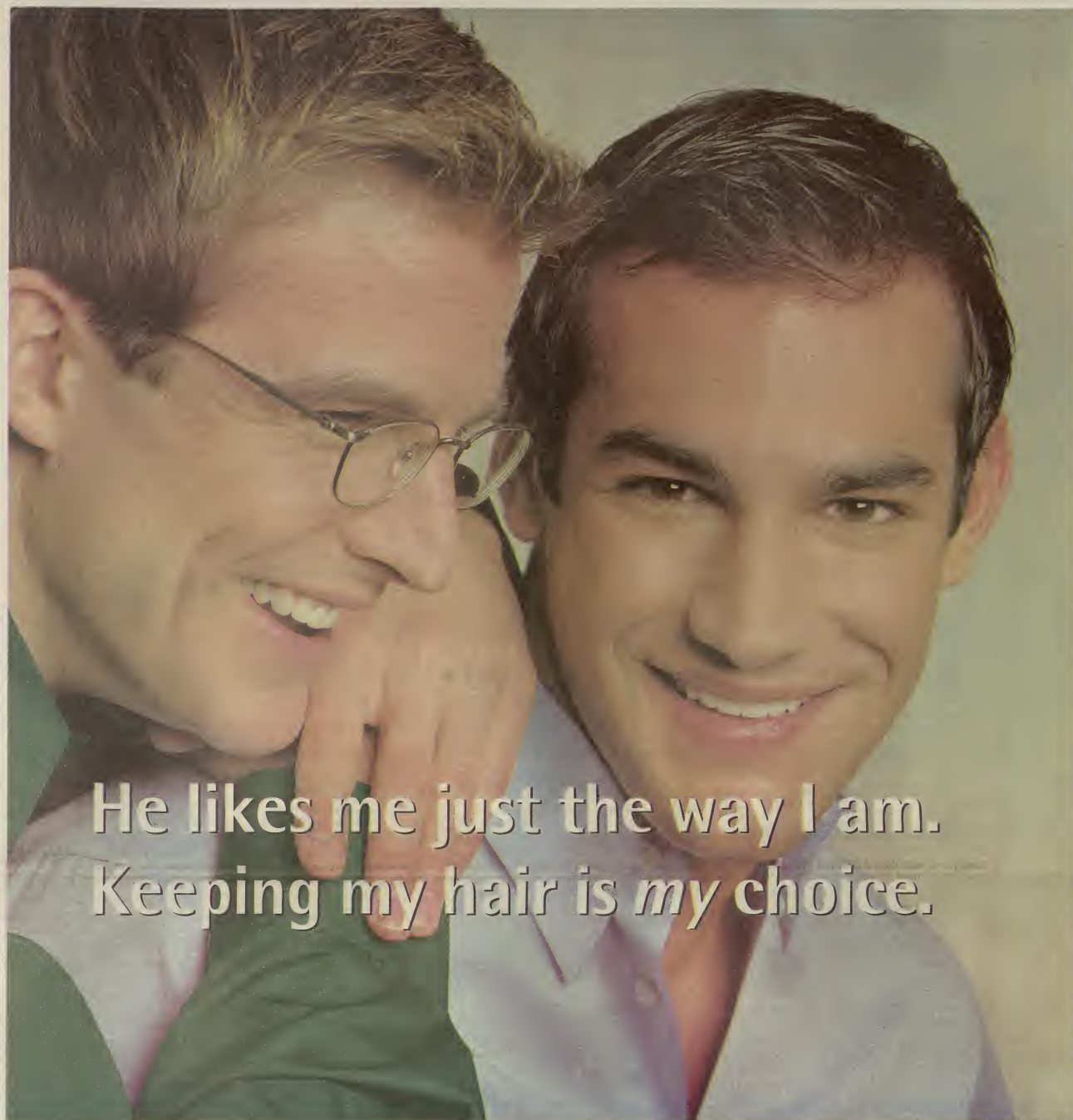


**MERCK**

003424(3)(510)-CRX-CON

Issued September 1999  
MERCK & CO., INC.  
West Point, PA 19486, USA





He likes me just the way I am.  
Keeping my hair is *my* choice.



We make lots of decisions together.  
But some choices I make for me.  
That's why I use PROPECIA.

**PROPECIA is the first and only FDA-approved pill proven to treat male pattern hair loss on the vertex (top of the head) and anterior mid-scalp area in men.**

#### THE NUMBERS

The fact is, for most men, PROPECIA works. The results of 2 years of testing speak for themselves.\*

- 5 out of 6 men kept the amount of hair they had (vs. 28% with a sugar pill).
- 2 out of 3 men grew back some of their lost hair (vs. 7% with a sugar pill).

Most men reported an increase in the amount of hair, a decrease in hair loss, and improvement in appearance. And the vast majority of men on PROPECIA were rated as improved by doctors (80% vs. 47% with a sugar pill).

\*Based on vertex studies at 2 years of men 18 to 41 with mild to moderate hair loss. There is not evidence that PROPECIA works for receding hairlines at the temples.

#### THE MOST COMMON SIDE EFFECTS

Clinical tests showed PROPECIA was very well tolerated. Only a very small number of men had some sexual side effects, with each occurring in less than 2% of men. They included less desire for sex, difficulty in achieving an erection, and a decrease in the amount of semen. When the men who had these side effects stopped taking PROPECIA, the side effects went away.

#### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW

**PROPECIA is for men only.** Women who are or may potentially be pregnant must not use PROPECIA because of the risk that the active ingredient may cause a specific kind of birth defect. (See accompanying Patient Product Information for details.) Likewise, they should avoid handling the tablets when they're crushed or broken. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling.

#### WHEN YOU COULD SEE RESULTS

Take PROPECIA daily and you could see results in as little as three months. If you stop taking it, however, your results will gradually go away over twelve months. And if it hasn't worked in twelve months, it is unlikely to be of benefit.

For more information, call 1-888-637-2548 or visit our website at [www.propecia.com/info](http://www.propecia.com/info).

PROPECIA is available by prescription only, so the best thing to do is talk to your doctor.

Know the facts. Many men do, which is probably why over 30,000 prescriptions for PROPECIA are filled each week.\*\*

Please read the next page for additional information about PROPECIA.

\*\*Weekly prescription data, 01/08/99 to 01/21/00, from IMS Health National Prescription Audit Plus 7™.

**Propecia**  
(finasteride)

Helping make hair loss history\*



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## Propecia® (Finasteride) Tablets

**Patient Information about PROPECIA®**  
(Pro-pee-sha)  
Generic name: finasteride (fin-AS-tur-eyed)

### PROPECIA® is for use by MEN ONLY.

Please read this leaflet before you start taking PROPECIA. Also, read the information included with PROPECIA each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss PROPECIA when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups.

#### What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area. PROPECIA is for use by **MEN ONLY** and should **NOT** be used by women or children.

#### What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s. Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

#### Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. All men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel™ Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

#### Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA.

PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

#### How should I take PROPECIA?

Follow your doctor's instructions.

- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
- You may take PROPECIA with or without food.
- If you forget to take PROPECIA, do **not** take an extra tablet. Just take the next tablet as usual.

PROPECIA will **not** work faster or better if you take it more than once a day.

#### Who should **NOT** take PROPECIA?

- PROPECIA is for the treatment of male pattern hair loss in **MEN ONLY** and should not be taken by women or children.
- Anyone allergic to any of the ingredients.

#### A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

- Women who are or may potentially be pregnant:
  - must not use PROPECIA
  - should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

#### What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

In general use, the following have been reported infrequently: allergic reactions including rash, itching, hives and swelling of the lips and face; problems with ejaculation; breast tenderness and enlargement; and testicular pain.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual side effects.

- PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

#### Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you. Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS LEAFLET PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS LEAFLET YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

1-800-830-7375, Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M. (ET).

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**Propecia®**  
(Finasteride) Tablets

## Rabbis

◀ page 1

"kedushah may be present in committed same-gender relationships between two Jews and that these relationships can serve as the foundation of stable Jewish families, thus adding strength to the Jewish community."

But the statement also noted that during the same period the CCAR Committee on Responsa concluded by a 7-2 vote that "homosexual relationships, however exclusive and committed they may be, do not fit within this legal category; they cannot be called kiddushin. We do not understand

**"Holiness may be present in same-sex relationships, and we ought to find a way to affirm the sanctity of those relationships."**

Jewish marriage apart from the concept of kiddushin."

Yet by passing last week's resolution, Reform Judaism is embracing the notion that "holiness may be present in same-sex relationships, and we ought to find a way to affirm the sanctity of those relationships," according to Eger.

A year ago, the Women's Rabbinic Network called on CCAR to take up the issue of honoring same-sex commitment ceremonies between two Jews, and campaigned since then throughout the country to educate member rabbis on the issue; WRN's efforts paid off with last Wednesday's resolution.

"Especially for those of us here in California, after the passage of Proposition 22 - which really felt like such a repudiation of all the strides we've made," said Eger, who served on the board of the No on Knight/No on 22 campaign, "this is an affirmation that we are walking the path of justice for gay and lesbian people."

Eger noted that exit polls

showed that 76 percent of all California Jews who voted in the March 7 election voted against Proposition 22.

Soon after CCAR's announcement last week, leaders of the smaller Orthodox branch of Judaism in the U.S. condemned the resolution as "beyond the pale of acceptable Jewish teaching and practice." And Conservative Judaism, which is about the same size as the Reform branch, also opposes recognition of same-sex unions.

But of the three branches, Reform Judaism is the most liberal, and since the mid-1970s has been at the forefront of recognition of equal rights for gays and lesbians. In 1996 CCAR declared its "sup-

port for the right of gay and lesbian couples to share fully and equally in the rights of civil marriage."

"Other denominations have defrocked their ministers for doing this kind of thing," Eger said of the new policy permitting rabbis to perform same-sex union ceremonies. "I hope that this will serve as an inspiration to the Methodists, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians, all of whom will be taking up this issue in the spring."

Eger believes there is a key lack of understanding in the current debates over gay marriage which leads civil laws to be based on the most conservative religious views, namely those held by the Catholic and Mormon churches.

"It's the way we handle marriage in general in this country," said Eger. "Every time I do a wedding, when I say, 'By the power vested in me by the state of California,' I am consciously aware that I am violating the constitution, which provides for the separation of church and state." ▼

## Dancing till deaf

◀ page 1

sense of security. UCSF-Stanford's Audiology Director, Robert Sweetow, says taking breaks from the noise can make a big difference. "If you step outside every 45 minutes for a five-minute break, it will really help a lot."

If they turned the music down to a "safe" level, it wouldn't be as much fun, we wouldn't be able to feel the music, right?

No, the safe level of 85 dB is still loud, louder than a vacuum cleaner and louder than a mini-bike. The 85 dB level is loud enough to cause distortion on a cheap stereo. And since you probably go to clubs to socialize, you will probably have more fun if you don't have to shout to be heard.

Why don't the clubs turn the volume down?

Club owners say they are giving you what you want. If you think it's too loud, let them know.

It's a free country, no one's forcing anyone to go in the clubs, if people want to listen to music that loud and employees want to work in clubs around music so loud, why should anyone tell them they can't?

Labor laws don't allow employers to subject employees to unnecessary and dangerous environmental conditions, period. As a business customer, you are protected from just about every other environmental risk. For example, a business is required to provide enough fire exits and adequate ventilation. One exception is noise. A business can legally provide an environment that could permanently destroy your hearing. Your only recourse is a civil lawsuit but since most hearing loss is insidious, you would have a hard time proving the source of your hearing damage.

I've been going to the clubs for years without earplugs and my hearing is fine. If I was suscepti-

ble to hearing damage wouldn't I have noticed the effects by now?

No, we're all susceptible to hearing loss. By the time you've noticed you've lost it, it's too late. You can prevent further damage but you'll never regain what's lost. And keep in mind, many people have developed tinnitus (permanent ringing in the ears) or hyperacusis (being overly sensitive to noise) after just one exposure to very loud noise.

What are some of the warning signs of hearing damage?

1. Ringing in the ears.
2. Difficulty in hearing conversation during a party or busy restaurant or any place where there is a lot of background noise. (President Clinton was fitted for hearing aids after noticing this classic symptom of noise-induced hearing loss.)
3. With noise-caused hearing loss, you may lose clarity of consonants in the high frequency range, that includes s or soft c, f, sh, ch or h. Words like hill, fill, and sill may sound exactly the same. You may mistake 50 for 15 or 60 for 16.
4. Needing to listen to the television at a louder level than most people.
5. Hearing better with one ear than the other on the phone.
6. Being overly sensitive to even quiet sounds.

I think I may have hearing damage, what do I do?

Have your hearing evaluated by an audiologist. An audiologist is a professional with a masters or doctorate degree who's trained in the evaluation of hearing. You can find one through a hearing or speech center, such as HEAR (Hearing, Education, and Awareness for Rockers) or in private practice. You should also see a medical doctor in case your hearing loss is due to disease or general physical problems. ▼

**Next week: Information about a free hearing screening and a complete resource guide.**

## Partner bills

◀ page 1

statutory will form. "Domestic partners" will be added everywhere that "spouse" appears, meaning a "registered partner can make funeral arrangements and decisions regarding a deceased partner's autopsy, and can recover damages for negligence and wrongful death. Additionally, AB2211 recognizes registered domestic partnerships from other jurisdictions for the purpose of these legal protections.

CAPE Executive Director Jean Harris told the Bay Area Reporter that while these bills are "modest and seem to be common sense," there will still be a fight to get them passed.

"The right wing is now saying that they never supported any benefits, and in the wake of [Proposition] 22, it will be interesting to see what happens," said Harris. "It's important for people to contact their legislators to register their support."

During the Proposition 22 campaign, proponents of the Knight initiative repeatedly went on record in support of basic rights and recognitions for gay and lesbian families.

Romero's bill now goes to the Assembly Health Committee, while the Kuehl and Steinberg bills go to appropriations. Considering the judiciary committee's 10-3 margin, the bills could do quite well.

Of course, for those who were a fan of domestic partnership precisely because it didn't tie couples into all the legal responsibilities of marriage, the system's expansion means you're out of luck. No longer will domestic partnership be a convenient way to secure health benefits while still maintaining independence; as registered partners, people will have to create separate contracts if they'd like their parents or other family members to have some say in their life and death matters. ▼



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Santa Cruz approves medical marijuana

by Liz Highleyman

Last Tuesday, March 29, the Santa Cruz City Council voted unanimously to approve an ordinance that will allow patients to grow and use medicinal cannabis. The new law is expected to take effect next month.

The ordinance — modeled after a similar Oakland law — allows persons with HIV disease, loss of appetite, side effects due to cancer or AIDS chemotherapy, or "any other illness for which marijuana provides relief," to grow and consume the plant.

Some 100 people — including many who use medical marijuana or who have conditions that could indicate its use — attended the City Council hearing, most speaking in favor of the new law. About three-quarters of Santa Cruz voters supported Proposition 215, the victorious 1996 California medical marijuana initiative.

The Santa Cruz ordinance does not require a prescription or recommendation from a doctor. According to federal law, cannabis

is not prescribable. However, many medical marijuana dispensaries do require that patients provide a letter from their doctor stating that the doctor believes cannabis can benefit the patient and that the doctor will monitor the patient over the course of their medical marijuana use. According to Santa Cruz City Councilmember Mike Rotkin, such requirements leave physicians open to federal prosecution and subsequent loss of their medical license.

Santa Cruz will develop a system in which medical marijuana users will receive membership cards; a similar system is in place for most San Francisco cannabis clubs. Under the Santa Cruz ordinance, growers of medical marijuana will also receive certificates. In the words of Rotkin, "This is the compassionate thing to do."

In related news, also on March 29, California rescheduled dronabinol (Marinol), a synthetic version of THC, one of the active components of cannabis, in pill form. The drug is approved to treat loss of appetite in people with AIDS.

Dronabinol was changed from

Schedule II to Schedule III, removing some of the restrictions on its prescription and use; this is the first case in which a Schedule II drug has been "down-scheduled." Schedule I drugs (including marijuana) are considered by the federal government to have no legitimate medical use and a high potential for abuse. Schedule II drugs are considered to have some medical use but also a significant potential for abuse; this category includes strong pain medications such as morphine. Physicians are required to complete a triplicate form for prescription of Schedule II drugs, and refills are not permitted.

The federal government decided to reschedule dronabinol last July, after reviewing favorable testimony and research from the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and Haight Ashbury Free Clinics; the review concluded that dronabinol is not likely to be abused. According to Dr. David Smith, an author of the Haight Ashbury research, "Our study clearly found that there was no abuse of Marinol during the 13 years it has been on the market."

California's version of the law to reschedule dronabinol was authored by state Senator Patrick Johnston (D-Stockton) and signed by Governor Gray Davis last Wednesday. Twenty-seven other states have also reassigned the drug to Schedule III. ▼

## HPPC members wanted

by Terry Beswick

The San Francisco Department of Public Health currently is seeking new members for its HIV Prevention Planning Council. The HPPC is a city-chartered advisory group to DPH formed in response to a 1994 mandate from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Currently, there are 24 members of the HPPC, though the group recently decided to include a total of 21 to 37 members, meaning that there could be 13 new members appointed this year for a two-year renewable term.

DPH Director Dr. Mitch Katz makes the final decisions on HPPC appointments, though the advisory group's membership committee is responsible for making recommendations to Katz.

According to a DPH announcement, "no special knowledge is required [to be appointed], just an awareness of the impact of HIV transmission on ethnic, geographic, and socio-economic communities in the city, and a willingness to volunteer about 10 hours a month."

The CDC requires cities receiving block grants for HIV prevention programs to form the advisory group chiefly to develop a comprehensive HIV prevention plan, and to update the plan annually to reflect changing priorities.

This month, the group will meet on the third Thursday, April 20, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Groups said to be underrepresented currently include HIV-positive people, African-Americans, and Latinos. In addition, the HPPC has no Native American members at this time.

To be considered for HPPC membership, interested people must complete and return a one-page application to DPH by Friday, April 14 at 5 p.m. ▼

Applications are available through the DPH Web site at [www.dph.sf.ca.us/HIVPrevPlan/page15.html](http://www.dph.sf.ca.us/HIVPrevPlan/page15.html), or by calling the department's HIV Prevention Section at (415) 554-9492.

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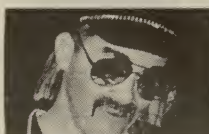
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## Sitting pretty

Migden kicks off Milk Plaza improvements

by Katie Szymanski

She's the feistiest and one of the most powerful women in the California Legislature, and now you can give her a juicy piece of yourself.

Well, sort of.

The park bench named for Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) is just one of the beautification projects scheduled for the Harvey Milk Memorial Plaza, as part of a revitalization made possible by Migden's ability to secure \$300,000 from the state last year. The plaza, located at Market and Castro streets, is named after the first openly gay elected official in San Francisco—the late Supervisor Harvey Milk—who was assassinated in 1978 and has since become a symbol for human rights and free expression.

"Harvey Milk Plaza deserves to be as majestic and magnificent as its namesake," said Migden, who kicked off the effort with Mayor Willie Brown, Supervisor Mark Leno, and others at a news conference last Friday, March 31. "The infusion of state funds will make the plaza a true treasure."

For the past 25 years, the plaza has stood in the heart of San Francisco's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community; now large-scale improvements will create meeting places and quiet nooks for people to assemble or spend some time alone.



Assemblywoman Carole Migden spoke at a March 31 news conference and announced plans for fixing up Harvey Milk Plaza.

"We are committed to improving and maintaining this significant landmark and making it more accessible for people to enjoy," said Mark Primeau, the openly gay director of the Department of Public Works. DPW has begun working with several community groups and city agencies to improve the area. They include the San Francisco Art Commis-

sion; Muni; the Department of Parking and Traffic; the Bureau of Heat, Light, and Power; and Castro Area Planning and Action.

Projects such as new lighting, a plaza expansion, and the addition of trash receptacles, seating, and landscaping have already begun. Overseen by DPW, the plaza is expected to be finished by the end of the year. ▼

## Groundbreaking standards to be unveiled at lesbian health forum

by Katie Szymanski

Are you practicing birth control? When is the last time you've had intercourse? You don't need an HIV test if you're a lesbian.

Sound familiar? These questions and statements are all too common for queer clients visiting hetero-centric health care providers. Not only is there an ignorance about our varied bodies and the way we have sex, but many doctors fail to look beyond sexual orientation when advising on procedures or diagnosing symptoms.

Not a moment too soon, the first "Standards of Care" document for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered clients will be unveiled tomorrow (Friday, April 7), at the city's LBT Women's Health



Supervisor Leslie Katz

Forum. According to Supervisor Leslie Katz, the document will educate providers on how to professionally address their LGBT clients' specific concerns.

"I am tired of hearing clients complain about the lack of sensitivity to their needs," said Katz.

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# Massive sulfur loss seen on or off drugs

 by Jeff Getty,  
Survive AIDS Writers Pool

On March 21, Reuters ran a blurb entitled "HIV Infection Results in Massive Loss of Sulfur." The short news report that mentioned recent research findings from Germany immediately set off a buzz among AIDS activists across the country. As with much mainstream media reporting on AIDS, the headline was misleading. Should PWAs now start eating yellow lumps of sulfur? Here's what we found out:

A group of German doctors from the Krebsforschungszentrum (don't even try to pronounce it) in Heidelberg, Germany published a report in *AIDS Human Retrovirus* February 2000 edition called "Massive Loss of Sulfur in HIV Infection." The abstract of the report stated that the German scientists (who are actually a quite well-respected group) measured the sulfate concentrations of arterial venous blood from the lower extremities of 16 HIV-positive patients and 16 HIV-negative controls. The findings showed that HIV-positive patients' peripheral tissue release large amounts of sulfate — with or without cocktail therapies. A previous study found that HIV-positive patients have increased plasma levels of sulfate, thioredoxin, and Interleukin 6. And another study of 19 HIV-positive patients compared to 22 healthy HIV-negative subjects showed that the HIV-positive patients were losing massive amounts of sulfur through the urine. This was not ameliorated by

cocktail therapy. A normal body excretes about three grams of cysteine (sulfur containing amino acid), the HIV-positive patients were excreting more than three times that — 10 grams per day.

The scientists concluded that these findings prove that HIV-positive patients suffer loss of glutathione, an essential amino acid known to help in cell metabolism — since sulfur is an essential ingredient of this amino acid.

Anyone who has been

following AIDS therapies and research over the years has probably heard about this before. The glutathione connection has been heavily studied since the late 1980s with little progress as to why this deficiency occurs — or more importantly why replacing the sulfur or glutathione does not seem to be an easy answer. Many surviving AIDS patients remember N-acetylcysteine (NAC), a popular supplement taken by thousands between 1994 and 1997. At the time there were several anecdotal reports of NAC users experienced increased weight and energy. A Stanford University study carried out by the Herzenberg Lab revealed little short-term benefit in patients taking NAC compared to patients on placebo.

One of the researchers who worked on the NAC study under Leonard and Lenora Herzenberg was Dr. Steve De Rosa. De Rosa said that the initial study was completed in 1995. There were a total of 60 patients studied for only eight weeks. Half the patients received active NAC and the other half got a placebo. "The study showed that taking NAC replenished glutathione as measured in the lymph and red blood cells," he said. But the study was too short, and De Rosa's opinion is that longer term use might have shown some clinical benefit. The study found no changes in absolute CD4 counts and no changes in HIV viral load. After the study was published, NAC use declined. Some HIVers, however, still use NAC to this day and claim that it helps.

So why did replacing lost cysteine through NAC or glutathione not work in a controlled study? Nobody seems to know for sure. Dr. Catherine Mulligan, a University of California researcher, is intrigued by the recent German findings. "I still think there is

something more to learn about NAC," she said. Mulligan researches the processes in metabolism that lead to AIDS-related wasting. She also was critical of the German report. "There are a number of things that worry me about this article — 'massive loss of sulfur' sounds too alarming," she said. When asked whether or not patients should experiment with sulfur supplements, she seemed worried that the Reuter's article might start a new treatment

fad. "I definitely encourage people not to rush out and buy sulfur. The kind of sulfur that comes from taking tablets is not going to fix it," she remarked.

Sulfur that can be metabolized by humans appears in the body

as cysteine. Cysteine is then converted or taken up by a larger amino chain, glutathione. Experience tells us that pouring in more raw ingredients such as sulfur is probably not as beneficial as adding a compound closer to the metabolized amino acid. Cysteine in NAC would be the logical and best way to introduce the correct type of sulfur into the body. Herzenberg's group still believe that NAC is going to prove itself one day.

The Herzenbergs are trying to find ways to fund a much larger and longer study. "The problem with commonly available NAC is that no pharmaceutical company will provide money for a study since it cannot hold the patent," De Rosa said. The group is working with at least one interested party in reformulating NAC so that it can get some type of patent and then possible FDA approval some day. Seems like cheap common drugs will never get FDA approval under the current system.

But clearly we see another missing link in the understanding of AIDS. Why did patients on or off cocktail therapy both have "massive" sulfur loss? If the viral load is undetectable then why the continued perturbation? And other abnormalities in the body such as immune dysfunction continue even after effective viral suppression. De Rosa and others believe that we have not gotten very far in our understanding of this disease. "Glutathione and sulfur is telling us that HAART [cocktail therapy] is not the simple answer — merely the first step. We need to find more answers," he remarked.

next page ►

**Survive AIDS**

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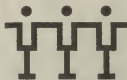
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Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

## Peter Burner

Peter Burner, award-winning landscape architect and co-owner of "Fern Falls," died of AIDS on March 5. His partner, Darrel Winslow, and several friends and family members were by his side during his last days.

Peter moved to California in 1993 and, with Darrel, created Fern Falls, a



stunning guest resort in Cazadero. Fern Falls was a magical wonderland of beautiful gardens and cabins situated among redwoods and along a natural waterfall. The

charm, beauty, and spirit that Peter and Darrel created there was nothing short of amazing, touching everyone who visited. The above "butt shot" of Peter was used in countless Fern Falls ads.

Peter was, in all facets of his life, a fiery and passionate man. He had strong convictions about civil rights, feminism, and the equality of all people. He read voraciously about metaphysics and devoted tremendous energy to the exploration of spirituality. He loved lesbian detective novels, science fiction movies, and spending time at Darrel's cabin along the Eel River.

Besides Darrel, Peter is survived by family members Dan and Valerie Burner, Paul and Mimi Burner, and numerous others. His family of friends includes Theresa Artuso, Cheryl Edwardson, Amita, Stuart Bussian, Max Kline, and Patrick Letellier.

A private memorial service will be held. Please send contributions to Peter's name to AmFar, 120 Wall St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10005.

Goodbye dear friend. Sail on, and don't look back.

## Daniel E. Collins



On April 2nd Dan passed away after a valiant struggle with AIDS. He is survived by his loving partner of seven years Christopher Rice, Stanley Wickham, his Mom, Dad and two brothers.

Dan was born in Sacramento in 1967, grew up in Truckee, Glendora and Vacaville and moved to San Francisco in 1990 to follow his heart. Dan worked for Fletcher-Challenge for five years as a customer service manager. He loved his vacations: Hawaii — especially the one with "Scooter Carol"; the Russian River — both camping at Fife's and living in the lap of luxury at the RRR; or just staying home and cooking and sewing. His most passionate holiday was Easter and the annual Easter Bonnet exchange hosted by his dear friends Mark, Wayne and Lu! Dan was also involved with the SF Leather community, competing in the Mr. River Business Leather and the Mr. Edge Leather contests in 1998 and 1999.

The memory of Dan embodies the true diversity of our culture, and he will truly be missed by all. A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, April 15. Call Christopher at (415) 552-5850 for more information.

## Lesbian health

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"The adoption of these standards of care needs to be a priority."

The document, modeled after standards developed by the GLBT Health Access Project of the Massachusetts-based JRI Health Institute, was developed by Marj Plumb, the past executive director of the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Clinic, and edited by the Women's Health Forum steering committee. It is expected to be adopted by the San Francisco Health Commission later this month.

There are several components of the document, including guidelines for personnel, clients' rights, intake and assessment, service planning and

delivery, confidentiality, community outreach, and research.

Guidelines for personnel call for healthcare offices to have written non-discrimination policies, to support the visibility of their LGBT staff, and to offer domestic partnership benefits.

Client guidelines call for offices to post non-discrimination policies and complaint procedures, to use culturally appropriate language, to provide intake forms that allow for all categories of gender identification and sexual orientation, to be familiar with LGBT healthcare issues, to have a referral service for specific LGBT needs, and to be trained in sensitivity toward minors that may be LGBT.

In short, it's time for doctors to quit the assumptions, and start to

do their homework. Once passed by the Health Commission, all clinics associated with the Department of Public Health will incorporate these guidelines into their protocols. Further outreach will help to ensure that additional practices, both public and private, adopt similar standards of care. ▼

The LGBT Standards of Care guidelines will be presented during the closing ceremonies of the LBT Women's Health Forum on Friday, April 7, at the Grand Hyatt at Union Square. There are a limited number of seats and the public will be accommodated as long as space is available. Call (415) 554-5336 to get on the waiting list.

## Survive AIDS

◀ previous page

Mulligan agreed and said that people taking indinivir are already getting plenty of sulfur from the drug. Mulligan also wants to revisit NAC. But the question of why the sulfur loss is happening in the first place goes unanswered.

For years, AIDS buyers clubs have been selling sulfur (in the form of NAC). There are some anecdotal reports that it has prolonged the lives of late-stage AIDS patients. Unfortunately most of

these clubs have shut down because of lost customers to conventional treatments and competing health food stores. NAC can still be found at health food stores but De Rosa cautions that not all NACs may be beneficial. He worries that some over-the-counter NAC is heavily oxidized. "Too much oxidation could cause some damage," he said. So PWAs need to be sure that any NAC they buy is of good quality. This can be problematic since most makers claim their product is "low-oxidative." De Rosa does not believe it.

Most patients who use NAC

take about one or two grams per day. There are no documented side effects to taking NAC. The Herzenberg study used a very high dose (eight grams per day) and still did not see any significant side effects. Of course taking NAC could be a waste of time and money, but replenishing missing amino acids through a harmless supplement seems plausible for now. The real mystery remains: Why are we losing sulfur in the first place? "If you knew the answer to that and other questions about HIV, you would win a Nobel Prize," quipped De Rosa. ▼

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HIVCARE CLINICAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT IS A NON-PROFIT PROGRAM OF SAINT FRANCIS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, 900 HYDE STREET, SAN FRANCISCO.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL MARK BOWERS 415-353-6215.

## Hoop and glory

by Jim Provenzano

**B**oycott America West. Yeah, yeah, and Paramount, Dr. Laura, and all that, too. But really. Boycott America West. With lost luggage, two canceled flights that ended up taking me 27 hours to get from San Francisco to Newark (they always borrow planes from Continental anyway), and an in-flight movie called *The Bachelor* (another flick set in a fictional San Francisco devoid of homosexuals), the only good thing was watching an entire basketball game (Duke losing to Florida) in one of those weird sports bars in the Phoenix airport.

As the March Madness and Final Four mania takes over the nation, resulting in tear gas-clouded riots and multiple arrests in several cities celebrating their victory, let's focus – calmly, now – on our own gay team's courtly behavior.

The big news is SF's recent victories two weeks ago at the Chicago Hoops Classic, an upcoming Pride event, and an Oakland Labor Day tournament in September.

It is, in the words of gay basketball guru Tony Jasinski, "a ridiculously busy year for our program."

The 10th anniversary of the Chicago Hoops Classic marks the longest running tournament in gay men's basketball. San Francisco's best men's team dominated the tournament, winning every game. They won the champi-



Teaming: SF's winning crew (with some out of town assists).

onship against Chicago's best team by a final score of 60 to 36. The game against Washington, D.C. was closer, with a 20-point lead.

"Martin Williams, Francis Broome, and Rhea Taylor continued to prove their dominance of gay men's basketball, as they won this major tournament for the third consecutive year," said Jasinski.

Two other teams also represented SF, and put in good efforts. Only San Francisco featured more than one team in the tourney, except for the host city.

Spring league is going strong and wants your participation. Individuals can sign up through this Monday, April 10 to play in the Gay Spring League. It's \$40 per player, includes all expenses, and there is a draft to define teams.

Each team will play each other once (six teams), followed by a short playoff series. All games are on Thursday nights at the Eureka Valley gym.

### Gym-less

This might be the last spring league for a few years. The building is being renovated, though

there will be no enhancements for the basketball gym. Retrofitting requirements will be met, and new rooms will be added where the children's playground is currently located.

Several other GLBT sports groups face displacement for a while. If the construction crews are as slow as the Nibbi crew at the LGBT Community Center, it may be a long, long while. Folks who know where GLBT wrestling, basketball, volleyball and other groups can relocate should help out.

In the meantime, plan ahead for the Golden Gayte Classic San Francisco Pride Tournament. Up to 16 teams from around the world will be playing on June 22-24 on three courts at San Francisco State University.

"We're working on getting a first-time-ever European team here by sending a team to play in Paris in April," said Jasinski. Events are planned throughout the tournament, and in several languages.

The championship game will be Saturday afternoon June 24 at Eureka Valley Rec Center in the Castro. "This will be our biggest tournament ever with players from all over the country," Jasinski said.

The half-a-million Pride Parade just happens to follow on Sunday morning June 25. Hmm, maybe some folks would like to host some lanky basketball players from out of town. That is, if their beds are big enough.

Oakland's regional tournament, set for Labor Day weekend (September 1-3), will be a smaller tourney held at Laney College on a single court as part of a new Sports Festival timed to coincide with our neighbor city's annual Gay Mardi Gras celebration. Rumor has it a certain aggressive promoter plans to charge "out the wazoo" admission fees to teams and fans (Anyone recall what the \$8 walking fee for Stonewall 30 paid for, or to whom?). Not a good idea.

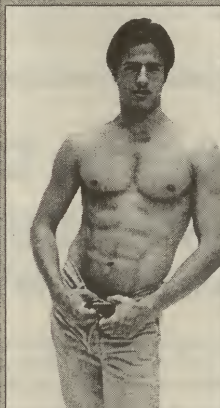
### New talent

Gay events aren't all for the basketball crew. "We also have a team in a 'straight' league that is doing well," Jasinski noted. "They won second place with their victory last week. They will be playing the third place team tonight (Thursday, April 6), at 7 p.m. at the Eureka gym for a chance at the championship."

On most Sundays of the year, open-court play starts at 5 p.m. and finishes at 8 at the Eureka Val-

next page ►

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Goin' to the dogs



**P**enelope, shown sitting in a pagoda for a doggie, was one of many canines that attended Pets Are Wonderful Support's annual Petchitecture event March 31 in San Francisco. The PAWS gala drew 800 people and raised thousands of dollars for the organization, which helps PWAs and their pet companions with services ranging from pet food to subsidized veterinary care.

## Sports Complex

◀ previous page

ley gym, 100 Collingwood, near 18th & Castro streets. Jasinski hopes to even out the competition with some requirements.

"If you are an A level player (played college or high school ball), please don't ask to play until 6:30, at the earliest. If you are a B level player (never played college or high school), please don't stay later and play unless you are needed to fill out teams."

Open league schedule:  
5 to 6:30 p.m. – B level ball (sometimes starting at 4:30)  
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. – Shared gym (1/2 B level and 1/2 A level)  
7:30 to 8:45 p.m. – A level ball (gym closes at 9)  
A \$5 weekly contribution is requested.

"There's a full range of talent levels, including some collegiate players as well as some beginners," Jasinski added.

Unfortunately, there are no shower facilities there (let's hope that will be a priority in the re-

construction!), and you must wear acceptable sneakers or court shoes. ▼

For more info, call Tony Jasinski at (415) 621-2710 or go to <http://www.gaybasketball.com>. For lots of team pictures from the Chicago Hoops Classic, visit <http://www.wcaa.net/>. For some previous columns, visit <http://sportscomplex.org>. To get your sports event promoted, e-mail [homeo@pachell.net](mailto:homeo@pachell.net).

## TG task force

◀ page 3

vices, and medical care.

Applicants to the task force need not be transgender—defined by the HRC as those undergoing or having completed a change in gender identity, including preoperative and post-operative transsexuals, drag queens and kings, feminine men or masculine women—in order to secure one of the 17 seats. But some sensitivity and experience working directly on the issues faced by transgender

men and women would obviously be helpful.

Transgender activist Tamara Ching said she expects "every Tom, Dick, and Harry that's transgender to want to get on this. I would recommend that anyone with a good track record and expertise to come forward."

Of the 17 members to be appointed, 11 will be appointed by the Board of Supervisors, based on recommendations from the Rules Committee (Supervisors Leno, Barbara Kaufman, and Mabel Teng), which is scheduled to review the applications on April 27.

Three members will be appointed by Mayor Willie Brown, and three more will be appointed by the HRC.

A full packet of application materials and information can be picked up at Leno's office in City Hall, Room 272.

Completed applications may be submitted to: Supervisor Mark Leno, City Hall, One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102. ▼

For more information, call Nathan Purkiss in Leno's office at (415) 554-7734.

## ACT UP/SF

◀ page 3

UP/Golden Gate.

Sharp's group recently changed its name in an attempt to avoid being confused with the unincorporated group that began using the name ACT UP/San Francisco several years ago. All long-standing ACT UP groups around the country have also disavowed any connection to ACT UP/San Francisco, which has used its substantial undeclared profits from medical marijuana sales to employ its members, fund its campaigns to discredit HIV as the cause of AIDS, fight against the use of animals in medical experimentation, and—most recently—to persuade African governments that Western medicines for HIV are designed to kill people.

"This apology cannot undo the harm we have done, but we believe it represents a new start for our group," the fake flier concluded, before giving the address and phone number of ACT UP/San Francisco's storefront operation—one of several medical marijuana buyers clubs in San Francisco. "We pledge ourselves to constructive efforts to end the epidemic that is killing too many

of our brothers and sisters."

But ACT UP/San Francisco spokesman Dave Pasquarelli disavowed these purportedly sincere apologies. "We figured the community knows satire when it sees it," he said.

Similarly, last week ACT UP/San Francisco claimed that it was a coincidence that they put a Web site up on the Internet using the name "Survive AIDS"—just after ACT UP/Golden Gate had

decided to change its name to Survive AIDS.

Some activists suggested they just want ACT UP/SF to go away.

"I don't know, I think for people who are politically involved it's interesting," Sharp commented on all the apparent misinformation. "But for the general public, I think it's just confusing."

"Now that we changed our name, we're like: there's a lot of work to do." ▼

## LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO. NO. 310828

In the Matter of the Application of Amparo Cristina Moddee For Change of Name. The application of Amparo Cristina Moddee for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Amparo Cristina Moddee has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Jacob Aaron Fisher. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 15th day of May, 2000, at 9:00 o'clock am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the Bay Area Reporter a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. MAR.30, APRIL 6, 13, 20, 2000

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO. NO. 310678

In the Matter of the Application of Yevgeniy Beyder For Change of Name. The application of Yevgeniy Beyder for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Yevgeniy Beyder has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Eugene Joseph Beyder. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 18th day of May, 2000, at 9:00 o'clock am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the Bay Area Reporter a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. MAR.30, APRIL 6, 13, 20, 2000

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## PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

The Mayor's Criminal Justice Council (MCJC) will be issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) on April 3, 2000, for the Community Court Fund Initiative. The purpose of the Community Court Fund is to support neighborhood beautification, restoration, and public safety projects. Funds will be available July 1, 2000. Eligibility is limited to neighborhood community based organizations with documented non-profit [501-(c) (3)] status that are located and/or provided services in either the Bayview Hunter's Point area or the Ocean-Merced-Ingleside/Taraval neighborhoods. The RFP will be available at:

Mayor's Criminal Justice Council  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Suite 496  
San Francisco, CA 94102

It can be downloaded from MCJC's website as well, at <http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/mcjc/>  
RFP applications are due on April 28, 2000 by 5 PM.  
For more information call (415) 554-6165

City and County of San Francisco  
Department of Human Services  
Request for Proposals #177

The City & County of San Francisco, Department of Human Services (DHS) seeks qualified organizations to provide client advocacy services for the Department's CalWORKs clients. \$142,000. Contract period: 7/1/00 - 6/30/01. RFP packet available beginning 3/22/00, DHS, 170 Otis St., 8th Flr. Respondents conference 1pm, 4/12/00, DHS, 170 Otis St., 8th Flr. PROPOSALS DUE: 5/08/00, 5pm. Esther Reyes 415-557-5864.

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 239402

The following person(s) are doing business as, Liberty Restoration & Painting 115 Justin Dr. San Francisco CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kratsas Kyriakos. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/20/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/20/2000  
MAR. 23, 30 APR. 6, 13, 2000

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 239392

The following person(s) are doing business as, Gough Street Cleaners 648 Gough St. SF., CA 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Deng Shao Chi. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/28/2000  
MAR. 23, 30 APR. 6, 13, 2000

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 239606

The following person(s) are doing business as, Ramvan.com, 2211 18th Street #2, San Francisco, CA, 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Tomas A. Lorenzo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/28/2000  
APRIL 6, 13, 20, 27, 2000

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 239410

The following person(s) are doing business as, Breast Cancer Emergency Fund 1540 Market St. #320 SF., CA 94102. This business is conducted by a non-profit corporation signed Anthony L. Cunningham AIDS Emergency Fund. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/20/2000  
MAR. 23, 30 APR. 6, 13, 2000

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 239675

The following person(s) are doing business as, San Francisco Artisans Gallery, Two Embarcadero Center, Lobby Level, San Francisco, CA. 94111. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Antman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/01/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/28/2000  
APRIL 6, 13, 20, 27, 2000

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 239397

The following person(s) are doing business as, Spindig, Inc. 1125 Rhode Island Ave. SF., CA 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Mark J. Harris, CFO. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 03/16/2000. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/20/2000  
MAR. 23, 30 APR. 6, 13, 2000

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 239385

The following person(s) are doing business as, I. Survive AIDS 2. ACT UP/Golden Gate 592 B Castro St. SF., CA 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Michael Lauro. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/20/2000  
MAR. 23, 30 APR. 6, 13, 2000

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 239328

The following person(s) are doing business as, Cherry Art Studio 1442 Taraval St. SF., CA 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed I Chun Chou. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 03/16/2000. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/16/2000  
MAR. 23, 30 APR. 6, 13, 2000

## LEGAL NOTICES

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 238390

The following person(s) are doing business as, L. Adgile Interactive Media 2. Adgile Media 344 Utah Street San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Jeff Ames, Member. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/10/2000  
MAR. 9, 16, 23, 30 2000

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 238322

The following person(s) are doing business as, Floor Pros. 128 Mangels St. SF., CA 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jason Mai. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/08/2000  
MAR. 9, 16, 23, 30 2000

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 239225

The following person(s) are doing business as, Tongue & Groove 2513 Van Ness Ave. San Francisco, CA 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Holly Andrews/Secretary. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/10/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/13/2000  
MAR. 30 APRIL 6, 13, 20, 2000



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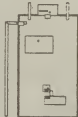
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**LEGAL NOTICES**  
**STATEMENT FILE NO. 239475**  
The following person(s) are doing business  
as Goodman & Bhutani, LLP, 584 Castro  
St. #522 San Francisco, CA 94114. This  
business is conducted by an limited liability  
partnership signed Andrea Lynne  
Goodman. The registrant(s) commenced to  
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Gender loving care  
SF transvestites, transsexuals and other  
transgressors in Treut's 'Gendernauts.'  
page 31

Guilty pleasure pop  
Listening to Aqua and  
other Danish pop bands.  
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Scarlet fever  
Douglas Sills is the  
'Scarlet Pimpernel' in SF.  
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 14 • 6 April 2000

## Viva Joan Collins!

by Richard Dodds

### A life of high drama and 'hiccups'

What is it about Joan Collins that gives gay men a goose? When I mentioned to friends that I would be talking to the actress on the phone, I was startled by their interest. "Can I come over and just listen in on an extension?" pleaded one friend who had been unimpressed with my phone chat with Liza Minnelli.

When I told Collins about the request, she was unfazed. "Are they there now?" she purred. "Hi, boys!"

Actually, it was just Collins and me in a telephone tête-à-tête, with only a continent and an ocean between us. She was at home in London, but soon will be in San Francisco, starring with her old friend George Hamilton in *Love Letters*.

Reading over other interviews before our conversation had given me pause. She could be testy or abrupt when a question displeased her. But in our talk, she was cheery and chatty, and brought up most of the old dirt her-

self that interviewers usually want to dig for.

Asked about her gay following, she fairly bubbled. "It's extremely flattering, because I have many, many gay friends," she said, "and I know that usually the people with whom they're fascinated are people whom I find quite fascinating myself. People like Judy Garland, Marlene Dietrich, Barbra Streisand, Liza Minnelli."

But she suspects the fascination may be as much for the character she once played on *Dynasty* than for herself. "I don't think I had much of a gay following before *Dynasty*," she mused. "I think playing Alexis kind of exacerbated it, which I mean in a good way."

Alexis was one of television's all-time great bitches, and there has been some confusion about where Alexis ends and Joan begins.

"It was horrible for me when I was doing it," Collins said of the way her character's traits were projected onto the performer. "And it stuck, because I think I played that

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Douglas Wythe and Andrew Merling tie the knot

## A queer marriage proposal

by David Lamble

*The Wedding* by Douglas Wythe, Andrew Merling, Roslyn Merling, Sheldon Merling; Avon Books, \$24

In the summer of 1996, a few months before he married his boyfriend in the ballroom of a Montreal department store, Doug Wythe had what he expected would be a pleasant night out with the boys, two long-established Chicago gay couples. Casually mentioning his upcoming nuptials, Wythe explained that he and partner Andrew Merling would be registering at the New York branch of Bloomingdales. At this point, Wythe's host, an older, respected doctor, pounced.

"Are either of you going to wear a gown? No? Tuxedos, how boring! Well, somebody must wear a

gown. Oh, let me!" He probably meant no insult, but this wasn't a response I ever anticipated. As far as I could tell, those at the table with the loudest voices were behaving as if I'd attacked them. By implying that Andrew and I were playing house, they acted like our decision to marry was devaluing them and their relationships... Old dogs who, perhaps, saw new tricks as a threat." So much for the idea that only straight people are freaked out by the very idea of gay marriage!

The hook — or, in movie lingo, "the inciting incident" — for *The Wedding: A Family's Coming Out Story* is a variation on an old trick that Doug Wythe pulled on Andrew one winter night in January, 1995. "I was dead set on finding an engagement ring by Andrew's birthday. It was just a week before we had dinner reservations at Sign of the Dove. You

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by Roberto Friedman  
and Lola Ladyfingers

**T**he longer you live, the more you learn. Last week, a scientific study, successfully angling for future funding, scored rather a lot of national press by reporting its fascinating findings that finger size is directly related to lesbianism. In short, lesbians have longer digits than straight women. Out There does not make ze easy joke.

After the news hit the stands, an informal survey of women doctors and nurses at SF General revealed that yes, the dyke docs and RNs did indeed have longer fingers. Except one woman who had longer fingers, *but only on one hand*. Of course, she identified as bisexual. We are not making this up.

Despite all appearances, the OT desk does *not* have a reporter — of whatever finger-size — permanently assigned to the **Judy/Liza/Lorna** beat. But a new Judy Garland biography (by **Gerald Clarke**, author of **[Truman] Capote**) is worth its weight in finger food. Even though there have been to date at least four major Judy bios, *Get Happy*, *The Life of Judy Garland* (Random House) breaks fresh ground because Clarke was privy to tapes Judy made toward a ghost-written autobiography that was never finished. By his research Clarke established that it was Garland's mother, **Ethel Gumm**, who got her (and her sisters) hooked on drugs, long before MGM gave her the keys to the candy shop:

"When Babe's energies flagged, as they often did, Ethel did what she had done with her two older daughters: she gave her pep pills. Then, when the pep pills started keeping her awake at night, Ethel counteracted them with sleeping tablets. 'I've got to keep these girls going!'"

Judy's astonishingly short and stubby little fingers, captured in the devil-may-care shot on the book's cover, are there for dedicated Judyologists to measure. But let's hit the high spots in terms of fresh dish in *Get Happy*: Clarke furnishes conclusive evidence that 1) Judy's daddy **Frank Gumm** made sexual advances toward



Stubby-fingered Judy Garland

teenage boys and got the family run out of both Grand Rapids, Minnesota and Lancaster, California; 2) One day Judy came home early from the studio and found second hubby

**Vincente Minnelli** in bed with another man; 3) One day Liza came home early and found first hubby **Peter Allen** in bed with another man. Allen also had an affair with Judy's naughty fourth hubby **Mark Her-**

**ron**. We just can't keep these cheating "straight" queer hubbies straight!

As if the appearance of a shiny new Judy bio weren't enough to get the old-school queen in us happy, last week also saw the publication of a memoir by stage and screen writer **Arthur (Gypsy, West Side Story) Laurents** (Knopf).

Moving in the urban gay worlds of ballet, theatre and film, Laurents regularly came up against heterosexuals with their blinkers securely fastened on. His efforts to include a gay subplot in ballet-world movie *The Turning Point* met a brick wall in the form of director **Herbert Ross**, who insisted, "Nobody in the ballet is gay anymore."

With famously obnoxious stage impresario **David Merrick**, Laurents writes, "the smell of rat was always in the air." Laurents claims he found it "disarming" that Merrick "would admit any-

thing — and then offer a disclaimer.

"Homosexuals are taking over the theatre," he complained loud and long to the press.

"One more interview like that," I warned him, "and we [homos] won't work for you."

"His faux-macho general manager (with a penchant for Puerto Rican boys) signaled frantically behind Merrick's back for me to lay off. Merrick wasn't fazed.



Arthur Laurents

"It's only for publicity. I wouldn't have anyone on my staff who wasn't homosexual. They have no one to go home to, so they work late and don't complain."

Then there was creepy genius **Alfred Hitchcock**, who hired Laurents to write *Rope*, a thriller whose three main characters are clearly homosexual. "At Warner Brothers studio in Burbank where *Rope* was shot, homosexuality was the unmentionable, known only as 'it.' It wasn't in the picture, no character was 'one.' Fascinating was how Hitchcock nevertheless made clear that he wanted 'it' in the picture. ...

"It was very Hitchcock: it tickled him that **Farley (Granger)** was playing a homosexual in a movie written by me, another homosexual; that we were lovers; that we had a secret he knew; that I knew he knew — the permutations were endless, all titillating to him... because they added a slightly kinky touch, and kink was a quality devoutly to be desired."

### Marketing marches on

Longtime Out There readers know just what we think of those *Baby Needs Bach* and *Baby Needs Bartok* CDs that have been trickling into the music stores in recent seasons. Now Delos, the label responsible, has released two new CDs, *A Day in the Life of Lucky* and *A Day in the Life of Leo*, which are billed as "classical music for you and your dog" and "for you and your cat," respectively. Lucky's disc includes **Copland's Simple Gifts** (a bone and a chewtoy?) and **Vivaldi's The Four Seasons** (no highbrow is Lucky); whilst Leo presumably prefers **Handel (Water Music)** gets her dreaming of dripping faucets; *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* promises catnip!) and **Puccini** ("O mio babbino caro" — cats love it when you speak Italian to them).

We can only imagine what's coming next — *Ivy Loves Ives*, classical music for your plants, or *Study Loves Schubert*, classical music for your tricks.

Dept. of Oops: Thanks to the reader who pointed out that the picture was called *The Magnificent Ambersons*, not *Andersons*, as we had it in that Oscar piece a few weeks back. We must have been thinking of all the truly magnificent *Andersons* we know: comedian **Louie**, composers **Laurie** and **Leroy**, politician **John**, flautist **Ian**; you probably know a few more. ▼

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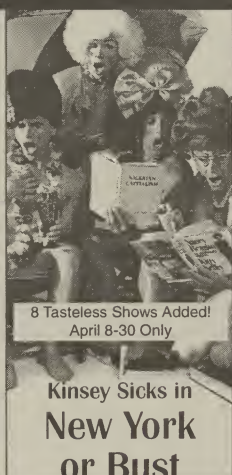
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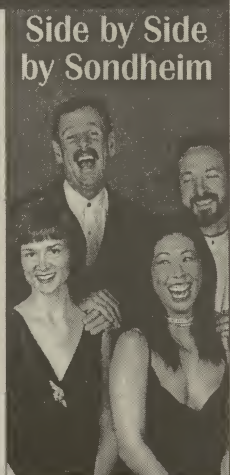
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# Return to gender

Monika Treut's 'Gendernauts' at Lumiere

by Gary Morris

**G**endernauts (1999) opens with a curious and none-too-appetizing image, a mangy old spotted hyena. But director Monika Treut finds a peculiar fascination in this creature because it has a "secret," and quite a juicy one. The females have an unusually high level of testosterone, making them the "gender rebels" of the animal world. "Their clit looks like a penis," she says, and a shot of one meandering through the jungle verifies this. They're larger, heavier, and more aggressive than the males, and they live in clans headed by dominant females. Treut was so impressed by these butch beasts that she named her production company "Hyena Films."

Some viewers may bristle at the idea that the transgenders who are the subjects of this documentary have anything in common with one of the more homely members of the animal kingdom, but Treut isn't being dishy or ironic. *Gendernauts* is, in fact, a valentine to the local TG community, a leisurely stroll through a specific marginal community at a specific time: San Francisco's "gendernauts" at the end of the 20th century.

The film is presided over by cultural theorist and self-styled "goddess of cyberspace" Sandy Stone, an aging hippie tranny who drones on intermittently with commentary, psychobabble and wishful thinking on the matter of shifting gender identities. Treut introduces us to a startling range of characters — some of whom are well known in the local queer community — who share an affinity for remaking their bodies and their lives in ways that inevitably make them transgressors. In some cases, this means trans-



Texas Tomboy, as seen in Monika Treut's *Gendernauts*

vestitism, in other cases transsexualism, and sometimes, pushing the boundaries ever further, hitherto uncharted areas in-between. The medical aspects of this brand of shape-shifting are neither avoided nor dwelt on, though some viewers may find the hardcore footage of Annie Sprinkle getting down with her hermaphrodite lover a bit raw.

San Francisco is ground zero for this movement, and the TGs of the film have cleverly constructed a secret city within The City to accommodate their needs, pleasures, and fetishes. They have medical facilities set up exclusively for them (the Tom Waddell clinic for gender reassignment), "safe houses" where they can relate with each other without raising eyebrows, the Club Continental for genderbending entertainment, and more underground realms, such as the back rooms of

doctors' office, where dubious MDs shoot them up with testosterone when they can't get it through more respectable channels.

The Club Continental sequences are probably the least interesting in the film. While it's always encouraging to see self-styled outlaws creating community and fun against great odds, the performances of Elvis Herselvis, Pearl Harbour and some miscellaneous drags and TGs are mostly cloying and dull. A lip-synched rendition of "I Am What I Am" is as tired as dinner theater.

## Insider ring

In spite of the insularity of the Club, and this community in general, the film doesn't treat its subjects as total outsiders. All the people we see — mostly FTMs (female-to-male transnannies), a few

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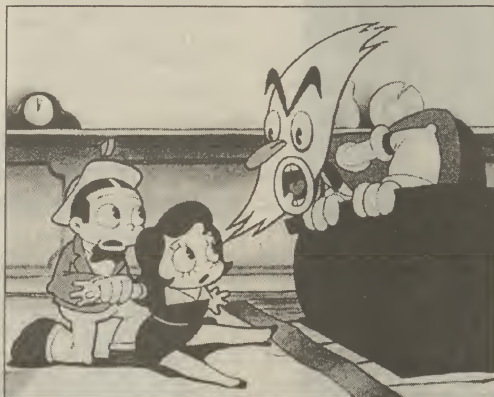
# Strangeness and poetry

'Spike and Mike' animation fest at Castro

by Gary Morris

**I**n these dot-com days, it's a bit surprising that film festivals continue to attract a solid viewership. After all, time "wasted" watching movies could easily be spent checking stock quotes, yakking into a cell phone, or bumping off pedestrians in an SUV. Of course, these days it's possible to have your cake and eat it, too — and I don't mean by getting two cakes. The annual *Spike and Mike* events (this one and its dark twin, *Sick and Twisted Animation*) yield all the pleasures of a film festival — novelty, variety — without that pesky overinvestment of time. This year's 2000 *Classic Festival of Animation*, one of the best collections of its kind in quite a while, encompasses a mere 14 shorts that run a total of less than 90 minutes.

Animators are often generous about crediting their sources and honoring their forebears. Two outstanding entries in this year's fest do just this, and both happen to be mini-musicals. Mark Caballero and Seamus Walsh's *Graveyard Jamboree with Mysterious Mose*



A scene from *Ghost of Stephen Foster*

gives new life to a '30s "le jazz hot" tune using colorful cut-outs, puppets, and silhouette animation. The scene shifts from boneyard to underwater frolics — don't miss the hipster octopus — and the style is a tribute to George Pal's fabulous Puppets of the '40s, with dashes of Cab Calloway and Spike Jones thrown in. Another

salute to the '30s, specifically to Popeye and Betty Boop creators Max and Dave Fleischer, can be found in *Ghost of Stephen Foster*. This is an alarmingly accurate recreation of the brothers' fluid, funny style, with creatures morphing effortlessly into other creatures, all to the raucous title tune played

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## 'Blasphemous' in the big city

### 'Corpus Christi' comes to SF

by Richard Dodds

One of the most controversial plays of the past decade will launch the New Conservatory Theatre Center's 2000-01 Pride season. Terrence McNally's *Corpus Christi* will open in October, marking the Bay Area debut of a play some have branded as blasphemous.

When the play was announced to open at the Manhattan Theatre Club in 1998, and elements of the plot were leaked, religious protests nearly killed the production. Responding to threats of violence, the Manhattan Theatre Club briefly canceled the production, before protests from theatre artists convinced the theatre to proceed with the play after all.

The play follows a young gay man named Joshua who grows up in Corpus Christi, Texas (also McNally's hometown), where he is persecuted for being different. Moving to a big city, he recruits disciples and spreads a message of love before he faces inevitable betrayal by his Judas, who happens

to have been his high school boyfriend.

When it opened on Oct. 13, 1998, dueling protesters greeted first-nighters, who had to pass through a metal detector to enter the theater. The threatened violence never occurred, and *Corpus Christi* completed its run without incident. But when the play opened last year in London, British Muslims issued a fatwa — or death sentence — against McNally.

Ed Decker, artistic director of New Conservatory, anticipates that the production will stir up some protests locally. "We're just hoping

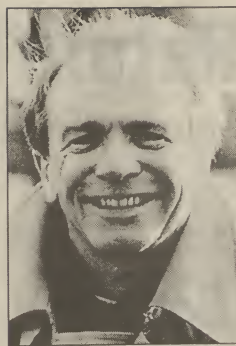
that it's not going to be insane," he said. "At the same time, we're also rolling out our Tolerance Project [an anti-homophobic play aimed at high school students], and those things combined might create some volatility."

Reviews for *Corpus Christi* in New York were hardly rapturous, but Decker thinks it was a case of the reality being unable to live up to the unwanted hype. "The characters are rich and their relationships are strong," Decker said. "Although its design may feel bare, it's the relationship of the characters that brings the theatricality out."

The New Conservatory Theatre, which has staged McNally's *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *The Lisbon Traviata* in past Pride seasons, will announce the remaining five plays in its 2000-01 season later this month. The new season is billed as *Body and Soul*.

"We're taking on some gay and spiritual and religious issues that seem to be problematic in the nation at the moment," Decker said. The new season will continue the theater's effort to increase the ratio of "serious" theater over the nude shows that have dogged its reputation.

"Box office is up about 30 percent from last year," Decker said, "so it looks like it was the right decision. It certainly has been, artistically. People in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles are taking us seriously, that this is a viable place for their work to be showcased. We did that in the space of five



Playwright Terrence McNally

years, from lots of flesh to where we are now."

### Side by Side by Side

The Bay Area will have dueling Sondheims during the coming weeks. Both the New Conservatory Theatre Center in San Francisco and Playhouse West in Walnut Creek are mounting productions of *Side by Side* by Sondheim.

For New Conservatory, *Side by Side* marks the second production in its new In Concert series of staged concert versions of musicals. It begins performances April 12 with a cast featuring Russ Duffy, Erin Dare, Coley Grundman, and Linda Haggerty. Mike Ward is the director, and Michael O'Dell is the musical director. For tickets, call 861-8972.

For Theatre West, *Side by Side* is the concluding show in its fifth season. Opening April 7, it features Robin Taylor, Caroline Altman, Paige Kidwell, and Len Shaffer. Lois Grandi, Playhouse West's artistic director, will stage the revue of songs by Stephen Sondheim. Call (925) 942-0300 for tickets and information.

### More Viva Variety

*Viva Variety*, vaudeville with a queer edge, returns to Theatre Rhino on April 18 with its eighth edition. Under the auspices of Steve Murray, the oltos showcase the far-flung talents of local artists. Each month a different charity benefits from the proceeds, with the Black Coalition on AIDS being the April designee.

Some of the performers on tap for *Viva Variety VIII* include the Barbary Coast Cloggers, country music from J. Byrd Hosch and Kuntry K's, singer Richard Nickol, comic Karen Ripley, performance artist Peggy L'Eggs, actor Brian Yates, and Dino Vavonni and the Flaggers.

Call 863-0741, ext. 2 for reservations. To see a webcast from *Viva Variety VI*, check out

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## DANCE

# Boys with horses, men with ships

## San Francisco Ballet's premiere programs

by Stephanie von Buchau

**S**an Francisco Ballet introduced six brand new pieces on last week's subscription programs, a bold idea that, if it did not result in any masterpieces (at least on Program A — I wasn't able to see the B evening), is certainly worth repeating. Unless you throw a lot of stuff at the wall, nothing will stick.

Bulgarian choreographer Vladimir Anguelov seemed to have a great initial idea — a sea-side homoerotic work for 12 men, set to Philip Glass's *Violin Concerto* — but, according to him, it wasn't supposed to be about sex. It was about horses and a "young man's journey of self-discovery." (No sex, please, we're equine?) At least the "horses" were danced by the company's most beautiful boys — Peter Brandenhoff, Gonzalo Garcia and Sergio Torrado, just to name the jaw-droppers.

Glass's slow movement produces low, throbbing chords over which the violin soars ecstatically, but there was neither throbbing nor soaring on stage. Of course, the work doesn't have to be about sex. Betsy Erickson's magnificent *Beneath the Waves* for Oakland Ballet, to the same score, is about music. But put a dozen half-naked boys on stage, wearing those tight little briefs so popular in the coded "physique" magazines of a less-enlightened era, romping together with no women in sight, and what do you think about?

Right. But forget it with *Impetuous*. Either from choreographic timidity or too much good taste, Parrish Maynard and Stephen Legate circled around each other, occasionally indulging in an awkward lift, but not with any emotional connection we could recognize as real, sensual life. I'm not asking for explicit sexual gymnastics, à la Michael Smuin, but something as tender as the same-sex coupling in Béjart's *Song of a Wayfarer* (which pretends it isn't about sex, either, but obviously is) would have sufficed. Maynard, dropping his usual "I am Divo" pose, suffered convincingly; all that dry teasing anguished me, too.

### Heavy lifting

The least pretentious piece on Program A, and therefore the most modestly successful, was David Palmer's *Concerto Roman-tique*. This is the sort of proper, tepid work beloved of ballet teachers and 12-year-old girls —



Parrish Maynard and the corps de ballet in Vladimir Anguelov's *Impetuous*

romance without sex, easily defined personal relationships, lots of gooey eye contact and inspired partnering, not surprising since Palmer is still the company stud in the heavy-lifting department.

In a Prussian ballroom, circa 1860s, a slightly overbearing hostess (Rachel Rufer, ready for her closeup) holds court with her devoted swain (Chidozie Nzerem). Her best friend (radiant Julie Diana) and Diana's lover (elegant Vadim Solomakha) dance to the opening of Max Bruch's *Violin Concerto*. (SFB concertmaster Roy Malan, who played most of the Glass first movement out of tune, recovered for the rest of that concerto, and sounded fine in the Bruch.) At a critical juncture in the music, Lucia Lacarra arrives at the ball, wearing white and a tiara (does this mean she is married?). Cyril Pierre, who has been the odd man out, falls instantly in love with her.

So far, so good, though my companion did remark later that the by-play among Rufer, Lacarra and Pierre (was he once Rufer's lover?) was so arresting, she forgot to watch Solomakha and Diana, who were rapturously executing Palmer's demanding but flowing pas de deux. Lacarra shyly (or cleverly) avoids Pierre until the gorgeous adagio begins and she melts into his arms for a formal, lyrical love duet. If *Concerto Roman-tique* had ended there, it would have been much stronger, but the music goes on and on, betraying Palmer into some banal, tedious groupings.

Ready-made music is always a problem in dance. Christopher Wheeldon roundly abused Edward Elgar's powerful, bordering-on-mawkish song cycle, *Sea Pictures*. (A last-minute vocal substitution brought us mezzo Katia

Giselle Escalera, who has a lovely voice but not enough experience with the Elgar to shape its treacherous climaxes.) The high-toned Victorian poetry may have embarrassed the young British choreographer, but then why pick the piece in the first place, especially for a story that would have seemed old-fashioned and corny in 1900, let alone in 2000?

Wheeldon's cliché-ridden plot involves a rustic fishing village in which five couples in dreary costumes enact the classic story of men yearning for the sea, and women trying to hold them back. The men finally depart, and when they return, Joanna Berman's lover (Yuri Possokhov) is among the missing. She mourns and rages at the other happy couples, finally running up a convenient cliff and throwing herself into the sea. (Yes, you've seen her do this in *Swan Lake*. I couldn't help but feel that *Sea Pictures* was an unwitting metaphor for Berman's SFB career, in which this divine dancer is always losing promising partners to injury, retirement or brain lock.)

Okay, so ignore the derivative story; Wheeldon is young and relatively inexperienced. And the poor boy has been cursed with the accolade "best young ballet choreographer" by a New York critic in need of laser eye surgery. At this point, his movement, said to be "dramatic," just looks strenuous and clumsy. Possokhov, normally the most secure partner, experienced a glitch that he covered handsomely, but even Damian Smith and Julie Diana, a sizzling couple in contemporary ballet, looked stressed by Wheeldon's inventive but gawky postures.

Finally, though Wheeldon insists we should not take the poetry literally, how can you ignore the climax of "Sabbath Morning," in which the singer, praying for grace, cries, "He [God] shall assist me to look higher/Where keep the saints, with harp and song/An endless, endless Sabbath morning"? During this stirring passage, Possokhov was heaving Berman around so that we could see her underwear. I don't care if you are "setting the music, not the words." You simply cannot employ a crotch shot when a penitent is passionately evoking God's blessing unless you are terribly ironic or a much stronger choreographer than Wheeldon appears to be at this point. To paraphrase *South Park*, "What would Mark Morris do?" ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at [BARstage@aol.com](mailto:BARstage@aol.com).

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## Backstage

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### The envelope, please

Now that Oscar fever has subsided, it's time for BATCC fever. What's that, you ask? It's the annual awards gala sponsored by the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle (of which your correspondent is a member). This year's event begins at 8 p.m. April 10 at the Palace of Fine Arts, and it's open to the public.

In addition to distributing

awards to approximately 50 actors, directors, and designers, the evening will also include performances from six musicals seen on local stages during the past year. Entertainers include C.J. Blankenship from *Oklahoma!*, Joe Vincent from *South Pacific*, Meg Mackay from *The Grass Harp*, Karen Hall from *Pal Joey*, and Pat Yankee from *From Bessie, With Love*.

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# SALE



news you can use

# McBroom paints portraits

## Amanda at the Plush Room

by Jim Van Buskirk

Amanda McBroom burst onto the music scene with "The Rose," the title song from the 1979 Bette Midler movie loosely based on the life of Janis Joplin. McBroom affectionately refers to "The Rose" as "the song that built my bathroom." Even if you think you've heard it one too many times, listening to it sung by the songwriter, after learning that McBroom sang background vocals on Midler's hit recording, you hear anew how well-crafted it is.

"The Rose" is the first track on *Portraits*, the newly released compilation of McBroom's 20-year singing-songwriting career. Among the album's 74 minutes are four new songs supplementing the 14 selected from her albums. "All of these songs are stories I love to tell," McBroom says. Listening to them sung by the woman who wrote them is a revelation, even if you've heard them covered by such talents as Barbara Cook, Betty Buckley, Karen Akers, and KT Sullivan. McBroom's beautiful voice and emotional sensitivity make her her own best interpreter.

*Portraits* is an apt title for this collection of musical pictures of people and places, proximity and distance. One of the most powerful is "Errol Flynn," a paean to her father, David Bruce, a Hollywood actor whose alcoholism contributed to his failings as a father. The nuances of love also play out in unexpected ways throughout the story songs. "The Portrait" describes a complicated mother/daughter relationship, while "Dreaming" of love and fortune is the way one woman survives her drab existence.

McBroom delves deeply into the psyche, rendering rich portraits of pleasure and poignancy. An excellent example is "Ship in a

Bottle" from which she yearns for "the heart of a little boy sailor to come break the bottle and help me be free." McBroom's characters hope for a better time, often underpinning their memories of the past even as they try to stay in the moment: "And in the end, who can depend on what is yet to be? For here and now, there's only you and me."

If the new recording is a chance to treasure these classic songs again, experiencing McBroom perform them in the intimacy of the Plush Room (April 11-23) is a treat not to be missed. Her vocal control, personal poise and warmth, and consummate

professionalism make her one of the country's favorite performers in cabarets, clubs and concert halls, whether doing her own or others' material. She'll be joined by her pianist, musical arranger and collaborator Michele Brouman, with whom she wrote "Amanda," "Best Friend," and the soaring "Make Me a Kite." One element missing from the recording is McBroom's humorous songs; in concert, her comic timing is impeccable. In person and on recording, listening to McBroom is a journey, as she invites, "Won't you come to me and let me see that love can be... whoever you are." ▼



Amanda McBroom

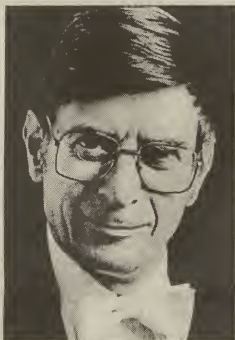
# Maestro classes

## Blomstedt revisits the SF Symphony

by Philip Campbell

After their well-received national tour, the San Francisco Symphony immediately returned home and to Davies Hall for the past three weeks of equally demanding concerts. Playing under the leadership of Associate Conductor Alasdair Neale and former Music Director and current Conductor Laureate Herbert Blomstedt, the hard-working musicians have barely been given a moment's rest.

Of course, Herbert Blomstedt is no slacker himself. As Music Director of the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig, he still manages to make an annual trip to San Francisco, always reminding audiences of his important guidance here during a decade of strong musical growth. Michael Tilson Thomas inherited a band that was primed for stardom in the States.



Herbert Blomstedt

Blomstedt had already made them famous abroad, with a Grammy and Gramophone award-winning partnership on London/Decca compact discs.

Striding to center stage, bushy eyebrows furrowed with characteristic concentration, the serious-minded but warmly paternal former master started his first concert with the *Echoes of Ossian* Overture by Danish composer Niels Gade. The beautifully scored Overture was making its first appearance on a Symphony subscription series, and while it was considered trend-setting in its day, there is little more than pleasant nostalgia to recommend it now. Still, it was an effective curtain-raiser, and the orches-

tra was clearly ready to give the composer and Blomstedt a sympathetic performance.

Another SFS premiere followed with Bohuslav Martinu's *Rhapsody Concerto* for Viola and Orchestra. Martinu has always been a favorite of mine, and I was thrilled to know our own Principal Violist, Geraldine Walther, would essay the solo part. Like Blomstedt, she is hardly a flashy performer, but her obvious dedication and talent has made her a beloved fixture on the local scene. Sporting a new coiffure of lightened hair, Walther is finally looking un-self-conscious in the spotlight, but her unstudied shyness is still apparent. It only makes us like her more.

The *Rhapsody Concerto* is aptly named, for it's more a lyric meditation than a showpiece. Walther was right at home in the quirky Martinu style. It was not a momentous occasion, but lovely all the same. After intermission, the orchestra quickly worked their way through Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 3* in A minor, the *Scottish*. The connection between Gade, Mendelssohn and Blomstedt tied the evening up with a tidy little bow. All three have commanded the podium at the Leipzig Gewandhaus. The *Scottish* is full of good tunes and typical craftsmanship, and it sounded good in a brisk rendition.

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# Fop to the rescue

Douglas Sills swashbuckles into town

by Richard Dodds

A fop is not a fairy, though modern audiences may sometimes miss the distinction. In *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Douglas Sills plays a swashbuckling hero whose alter-ego disguise is a dandy who seemingly would rather preen than duel.

Sills, widely hailed for his performance in the recent Broadway musical, says he is not "playing gay" as Sir Percy, "though as a reference point for audiences, they may see that. In terms of being named that, homosexuality didn't even occur until late in the 19th century."

A fop "is a man clearly interested in matters other than life and death," he said. "A contemporary fop might be our image of George Hamilton, or Niles Crane on *Frasier*."

The actor is recreating his role on tour, arriving this week at the Orpheum Theatre, which marks a return to his training ground. Sills studied at ACT's acting conservatory in the early '80s, an experience that imbued him with the importance of the historical context of every role — even in a lightweight entertainment like *The Scarlet Pimpernel*.

"If there is something that has distinguished my work in *Pimpernel* for the Broadway community," he said recently from New Haven, "it's bringing that ACT classically-trained-actor technique to the work. From the moment you walk on stage, there must be a why to what you're doing."

*The Scarlet Pimpernel* is based on the Baroness Orczy's classic adventure tale of Sir Percival Blakeney, a daring Englishman who sets out to rescue victims from the excesses of the French Revolution. This predecessor of the superhero is known only as the Scarlet Pimpernel to both those he saves and those he battles. To fool his ene-

mies, and even his mystified new wife, he and his comrades pretend to be dandies in the extreme. Frank Wildhorn, best known for *Jekyll & Hyde*, and Nan Knighton provided the songs.

"What we're doing is specifically not meant to be the modern faggotry version of Stepin' Fetchit," Sills said. "When Percy instructs his men in how to behave to deflect attention, some of them do go to that place. If it was a true period piece, these characters wouldn't even know what that place was. But in deference to modern audiences, some of them do go too far, and Percy must remind them."

In the musical number "The Creation of Man," Percy explains that it's all about plumage.

"In the song, he creates that distinction so they can understand it," Sills said. "The imagery is from the animal kingdom, where the male of the species is always the most beautiful, and what Percy is doing is showing them how to take that to ridiculous extremes so people wouldn't possibly think they are doing anything heroic. But the great message of the piece is that if you're stupid enough to judge someone that way, you're going to lose. One of the last lines of the play is, 'The true measure of a man is on the inside.' That was a line I asked for."

## Born again

Sills has seen his clout steadily increase as the musical has been reborn several times since its less-than-auspicious opening in 1997. "We're calling the tour *Pimpernel 4.0*," he said.

In an unheard-of case of theatrical resurrection, new producers bought the production after it had been running on Broadway for a year, and brought in a new director who rehearsed a new version with a new cast during the day, while the old version with the old cast played at night. Of the stars,

only Sills made the cut. When the previously unamused critics returned for a second look, their opinions had markedly improved.

"I was the one with everything to lose," Sills said. "I was the one who had been well-reviewed. As the [second] opening night approached, I was petrified. I thought I was going to read, 'It's a shame. Mr. Sills should have quit while he was ahead.'"

Instead, the critics' appreciation of Sills as a late-blooming Broadway star only increased. But when yet another version of *Pimpernel* was being prepared — a downsizing required by the move to a smaller Broadway theater — nothing could convince Sills to stay.

"I was ready for a sanitarium," he said. "There was no one on Broadway trying to accomplish what I was doing eight times a week. One of the deals I had made for *Pimpernel 2.0* was that I would only promise them six performances a week. I would try to do eight, but I could no longer sacrifice everything in my existence for that show."

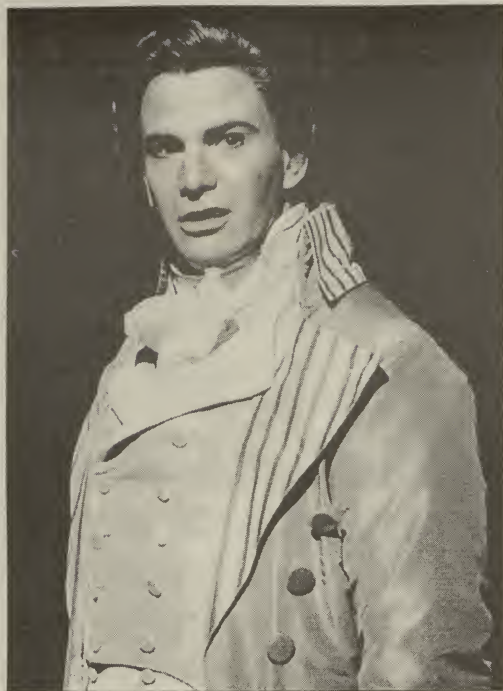
When the tour was being readied, the producers came to Sills again. This time he said yes.

"Once I had really rested for several months, I began thinking differently," he said. "As I looked at the body of work I had created to date, a role that allows me this kind of spectrum was a rarity. There were also a couple of things about the show that bugged me they were willing to work on if I came back. And it was lucrative."

Will he be doing the full eight performances a week on tour? "I'm trying," he said. "It almost prevented us from coming to an agreement, but I did want to do it and I did understand their plight. But I'm only doing the tour for four months."

## Westward ho

Most of the four months will be spent on the West Coast, which may



Douglas Sills in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*

have been the most compelling reason for Sill to agree to the tour.

"I've made my artistic home on the West Coast," he said, "so the chance to do it there was really important to me. It gives me the chance to show fellow artists things they might not have known about me."

The Michigan native wound up based in Los Angeles after his years at ACT, which were followed by two summers at the Berkeley Shakespeare Festival. His happy memories of San Francisco, he said, include sitting at Café Flore reading the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"I never thought of myself as a Los Angeles kind of person," Sills said, "but it just sort of happened."

Most of the time has been spent working in regional theaters, with no expectation of becoming a hot property in his late 30s. He's happy that it happened

later rather than sooner.

"Having lived on the West Coast so long, you learn how ephemeral all this is," Sills said. "You can't take it seriously for a moment. But what you can take to heart is good work, having people coming to you and not having to audition, having a certain financial freedom. These things are just tremendously satisfying after a long 20-year struggle in the provinces."

Does he have someone special to share it all with? "I do, thank you, and it makes all the difference," Sills said. "That, and a lot of therapy." ▼

**The Scarlet Pimpernel will run April 5-16 at the Orpheum Theatre. Tickets are \$32.50-\$69.50. Call 551-2000 or visit [www.bestofbroadway-sf.com](http://www.bestofbroadway-sf.com).**



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## THEATRE

## Joan Collins

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character too well. Avaricious, grasping, devious, nasty, cunning, manipulative, vixenish, oversexed. I'm not any of those things, but that is what a lot of people see me as. I am strong, I am assertive. I'm a survivor. And I have a certain toughness about me, but I also think I have a certain vulnerability, which I hope I'm going to be able to bring to Melissa."

In A.R. Gurney's *Love Letters*, Collins will play Melissa Gardner to George Hamilton's Andrew Makepeace Ladd III, two scions of upper-crust families whose lifelong relationship is traced through their letters. For Andy, success in career and family comes easily, but for Melissa, there is divorce, disappointment, and tragedy. Their changing fortunes put the emotional sparks in this epistolary drama.

## Coward turn

This will be Collins' first time performing *Love Letters*, which has starred scores of celebrities pairing since its debut in 1989, but it will not be her first time on stage in San Francisco. In 1991, she starred as Amanda Prynne in Noël Coward's *Private Lives*, a production that landed her on Broadway the following year.

In his review in *The New York Times*, theater critic Frank Rich wrote, "An ideal Amanda Prynne she is not, but she may be the best possible Joan Collins."

She remembered the review. "I don't quite understand what he meant by that," Collins said. "Would you explain what you think that means?"

Perhaps that your personality is larger than the characters you play, I suggested.

"I read in a lot of reviews that *Private Lives* was written for the characters of a very strong actor and actress, that you play more or less your own character," Collins said. "And that's what Gertrude Lawrence did and that's what Noël Coward did, and I guess that's what I did. As far as apologizing for being Joan Collins, no, I don't. If people want to come and see Joan Collins, they don't expect to see Lynn Redgrave."

But *Love Letters*, she knows, is different. "I can't change the way that I look, nor am I going to change my voice, but I think this is a play that is charming and sweet and very moving."

Can she be charming and sweet? "Have you ever seen me in *Star Trek*? You haven't? Go and rent it right now. You've never seen anybody so sweet and simple. It is the most favorite *Star*



Joan Collins

*Trek* for Trekkies, and it's the only one in which William Shatner falls in love, and he falls in love with this angelic missionary worker. *C'est moi.*"

Her efforts to distance herself from Alexis are often undone by the high drama that seems to exist in personal life. There have been four tumultuous marriages, the most recent being to a young Swedish rock star who ended up suing her for alimony. And then there was the suit filed by Random House trying to get back its \$1 million advance for a Collins-penned novel that the publisher deemed unusable.

"I have to say that I think high drama happens to a lot of people," she said, "but if you're famous, it becomes front-page news."

## Connubial bliss

Collins, 66, has been happily coupled for the past 12 years with Robin Hurlstone, an English art dealer 15 years her junior. "He's the greatest love of my life," she said. "He's my partner, my lover, and the most adorable and wonderful man one could ever possibly meet, and that's all I'm going to say about him, because he is antipatico to the press."

She's in a pretty good space these days. "I have a wonderful family, lover, friends, and I do feel I have overcome a lot of hideousness in my life," she said. "There have been some hiccups in the last few years. My daughter is getting divorced, and that does not thrill me, and there was that thing with whatever that publishing company's name was. But the last few years have more or less been very good for me."

That contrasts considerably with what should have been a golden period for Collins: her nine years on *Dynasty*. "Through most of *Dynasty*," she said, "I was miserable. First of all, one of my children was recovering from a serious accident, and then the hus-

band I was married to became addicted to narcotics and decided to embezzle a lot of money, and then I made a foolish mistake and married the Swede. Working on *Dynasty* was huge fun, but my personal life was a total mess."

With former husband Anthony Newley's death and the illness of several close friends, Collins has developed a "seize the moment" attitude towards life. "It is very much my philosophy to do as much as one can to not only make oneself happy," she said, "but to make the people around one happy."

It's a philosophy that runs through her new book *My Friends' Secrets*, in which she interviews 25 female celebrity friends who are over 40. "I call them Generation Zest," she said.

Other current projects include the upcoming *Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas*, in which she plays Wilma's mother, and a recurring role as an interior designer on the TV series *Will & Grace*.

In the first episode she shot, to air later this season, all her scenes are with Grace and her assistant Karen. For many fans of the show, the notion of Megan Mullally's Karen and Joan Collins' anybody in the same room together is a queen's paradise. We'll have to wait till the fall to see how Collins and Sean Hayes' Jack hit it off.

Joan Collins may claim that she is nothing like Alexis, that there is no more high drama in her life than in anyone else's, and that she isn't a down-and-dirty diva. But who wants to believe that? She's a soap opera in her own prime time. ▼

*Love Letters*, April 11-23 at the Marines Memorial Theatre.

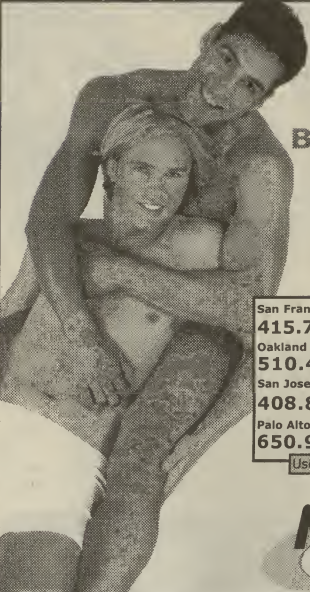


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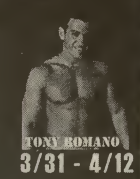
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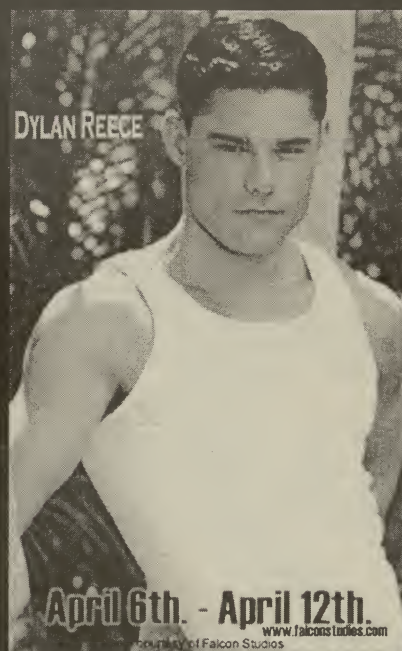
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# OUT&ABOUT



Anne Bluethenthal and Dancers perform "Keeping A-Breast" and other dances at ODC Theater. See Friday.

## Diego Rivera Theatre

Anna Deavere Smith's *Twilight* Los Angeles, a documentary-style play concerning the riots after the Rodney King beating trial. The piece was originally conceived as a one-woman show, but director John Wilk has here devised a multimedia production that involves more than 25 actors. \$10; \$5 students/seniors. April 7, 8, 14, and 15 at 8pm; April 16 at 2pm. City College of San Francisco, 50 Phelan Ave. 239-3132.

## ODC Theater

"Keeping A-Breast and other Dances," new works by Anne Bluethenthal and Dancers. This evening of dance includes the world premieres of "Keeping A-Breast" and "Constantly Moving" by Bluethenthal, featuring the music of Marc Ream and guest performances by Terry Sendgraff and Sharon Page Ritchie. Also presented will be Bluethenthal's 1999 work "Yucatan Blue" and guest artist Mercy Sidbury's recent work "The Four Dis-temperments." \$15. April 7 and 8 at 8pm. April 9 at 6pm. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). 863-9834.

## Yerba Buena Center

"Diabolical! Films by Jess Franco and Fernando Arrabal," a double-dose of European psychological fantasy, unearthed from dusty film vaults. "Viva la Muerte!" (1971) by Spanish avant-garde playwright Arrabal is the shocking, subversive, perverse coming-of-age fairy tale about Fando, a young boy whose mother betrays his father to the Fascists during the Civil War. The film takes place entirely in Fando's mind. Also: "Venus in Furs" (1970) featuring hopped-up hallucinations from cult director Franco. It's about an American jazz lounge musician in Turkey who finds the body of a dead girl washed up on the beach. \$6 (\$3 students/seniors). 8pm. Screening Room, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St.). 978-ARTS.

## Lone Star Saloon

Men of All Colors Together hold their monthly "Chat Night." Topic: "Positively Speaking," with guest speaker Lee Woo of BAHSES. Free. Refreshments served. No-host bar. 7-9pm. 1354 Harrison St. (at 10th St.). Info: 675-0201.

## Sat 8

### The Lab

The "Live Art Lab" series continues with Toychestra (all-woman toy instrument ensemble); the Grand Negress Godiva (pathological queer operatic lounge music); and Sheer Frost Orchestra (a performance of Marina Rosenfelt's piece for 17 women on electric guitars). \$5-\$10 sliding. 9pm. 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

### Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Garden

The Arboretum Society presents its April Plant Sale, featuring such spring bloomers as native irises, na-



Nick Leonard hosts Gay Comedy Showcase at Paul K. See Monday.

tive ceanothus, and variegated jasm-ines. A wide variety of plants suitable for spring planting will also be available. 10am-1pm. Ninth Ave. at Lincoln Way. 661-1316.

## Asian American Theater Company

"Rolling the R's," a reading by R. Zamora Linmark from his debut novel about growing up queer in 1970s Hawaii. He will also read works from his poetry collection, *Sensory for Nine and Other Poems*, and his forthcoming novel, *Leche*. \$10. 8pm. JCCCNC, 1840 Sutter St. (in Japantown). Info: 440-5545.

## New Conservatory Theatre

The Kinsey Sicks, America's Favorite Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet, have extended their new show, *New York or Bust*, thru April 30. \$22. Sat. at 10:30pm; Sun. at 7:30pm. 25 Van Ness (at Market). 861-8972.

## ATA Gallery

Other Cinema unleashes the cult-leg- endary "Beaver Trilogy," a trio of medium length films and videos by Trent ("Plan 10 from Outer Space") Harris. Harris originally shot a half-hour doc on an eccentric Beaver, Utah youth who cross-dressed as Olivia Newton-John and covered the blonde star's hits. Some years later, both Sean Penn and Crispin Glover interpreted the story in short films. \$5. 8:30pm. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

## Noe Valley Ministry

Doors keyboardist and rock & roll hall of famer Ray Manzarek teams up with the great Beat poet Michael McClure for an evening of music and spoken word. With guest flutist Larry Kassan. \$14 day; \$16 door. 8:15pm. 1021 Sanchez St. (at 23rd St.). 454-5238.

## Sun 9

### SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Marin Headlands to Sausalito hike and enjoy spectacular views of the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco, and the Bay. It's a moderately strenuous 8-10 mile hike with a 1,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9:15am at Van Ness & Sutter to take the bus to Rodeo Beach (and ferry back). Club info: 487-6410.

## ATA Gallery

ATA (Artists' Television Access) and A Different Light Bookstore team up for a marathon spoken-word and live-music benefit for the bookstore's annual "Readers & Writers Conference" this fall, a hometown Bay Area queer gathering that has for the past

## Calendare by Jim Coughenour

### Quiltmaking

*Stitching a Revolution: The Making of an Activist* by Cleve Jones; HarperSanFrancisco, \$26

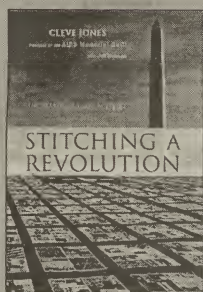
The first time I saw the Quilt was at the first National March on Washington in October 1987. I'd walked the last couple of miles in a rush of endorphins with my friend Derek. Everyone on the streets seemed to be shouting — but when we turned onto the Mall, we stepped into an unexpected zone of silence. Spread out on the lawn before us were nearly 2,000 colored panels, each the size of a grave. Derek and I walked over, our arms around each other, knowing that a panel with his name would soon be numbered among its company.

Stories like this could be repeated 10,000 times over. Every time I visited the Quilt, I was astonished by its palpable power, the way its evident grief and incongruous humor would work upon its viewers — families and strangers stunned and comforted by its witness of the dead. The Quilt is the most tactile and personal of monuments. "Straight men would have built a monument of stone or steel," a friend remarked in awe. "Only gay men would come up with something as whimsical as this."

Naturally the Quilt, has had its critics. The notorious Daniel Harris pronounced it the "very pinnacle of AIDS kitsch," decrying the "spurious aura of artsy-craftiness" evident in the Quilt's homemade panels. In his view, those responsible for marketing the epidemic "have attempted to place its primary commemorative monument within the wholesome tradition of American history. AIDS is stripped of its stigma as the scourge of depraved homosexuals and endowed instead with the integrity of a bucolic community in which good-natured rustics of unspoiled simplicity produced their handicrafts."

Exactly. The genius of the Quilt is the inadvertent ingenuity with which it restores the exiled dead to the mythic American Family. Perversely, the Quilt's kitsch engenders authenticity, by giving grief a stage and healing a place to begin.

In his winsome memoir, *Stitching a Revolution: The Making of an Activist*, the Quilt's founder is blind to such strange ironies. (Not that it matters; critics like Harris have enough sulfuric sentiment for a caravan of activists.) Cleve Jones' book is important not for its political insight, but for the everyday history it documents. Other writers have more powerfully described gay life in San Francisco or the harrowing history of the epidemic — yet years from now when readers wonder what it was like to be alive in the 1980s, trying to make sense of the sudden death of so many friends, books like *Stitching a Revolution* will be invaluable. For his peculiarly American inspiration, Cleve Jones deserves a place in the gay pantheon of the 20th century. Innocent of its pretensions, his memoir is a noble account. ▼



## Fri 7

### Escape from New York Pizza (downtown)

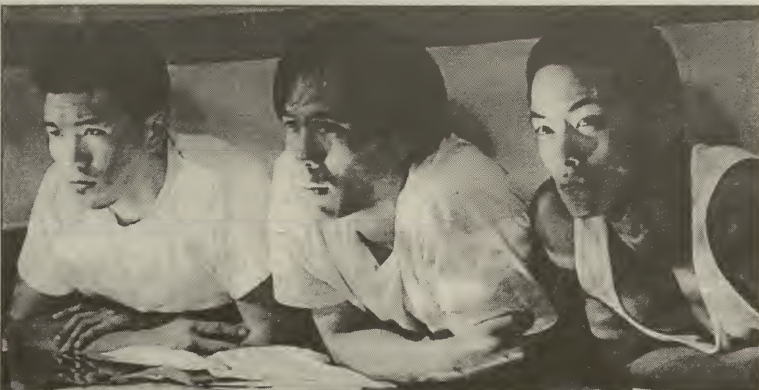
"Poetry & Pizza," the once-a-month series, presents an evening with poets Tim Donnelly (*Velcro Heart; A Season in Bed*) and Owen Hill (*Smile; Quasi-Erotic Poems; Migraine Auras; Menage A Trois*). All proceeds benefit the Pacific Center, the premier lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning community center in Berkeley. \$5 donation (includes soda, pizza, & poetry). 7:30pm. 333 Bush St. (at Montgomery).

### The Lab

The "Live Art Lab" series continues with Rik Maverik (disco-tinged spoken word); Dennis Somera (rhythmic poetry transmuting language); Ron Heglin and Katt Sammon (improvisations for two voices); and Kathryn Williamson (intense performance testing physical limits). \$5-\$10 sliding. 9pm. 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

### il Teatro 450

Henceforward... Alan Ayckbourn's comedy set in the foreseeable future when everything has changed except human nature. In the play, an audio voyeur, his estranged wife, a female android, and Amazon street gangs clash in a multimedia fable of artistic obsession. Performed by the Angst Ensemble, directed by Jonathan Luskin. \$18. Thru May 6. Fridays, Saturdays 8pm; Sundays 7pm. 449 Powell St., third floor. 433-1172.



Michael Cheng, Dong Nguyen, and Fred Chen star in Theatre of Yugen's *The Good Guys: An American Tragedy* at Theatre Artaud. See Thursday.



five years drawn upwards of 400 people to three days of workshops, readings and performances. Tonight's featured readers and performers include Tom Ammiano, Rabi Alameddine, Red Jordan Arobateau, Marci Blackman, Larry Bob, Cedric Brown, Fairy Butch, Grand Negress Godiva, Robert Glück, Michelle Marzullo, Jim Provenzano, Sash Sunday and Jen Gandy, Carla Trujillo, John Tunui, Rodney Washington, Mark Weigle and Marvin K. White. \$5-\$55 donation. 1-4 pm. ATA Gallery, 992 Valencia St. Info: 431-0891.

#### McKenna Theatre

The acclaimed Skampa Quartet from Prague will perform music by Mozart, Bodorova, and Janacek. With baritone Christophersen Nomura. Free. 3pm. SFSU, Creative Arts Bldg., 1600 Holloway. 338-1358.

#### Fort Mason Center

Neale Donald Walsch, author of *Conversations with God and Friendship with God*, will speak on spirituality, social responsibility, and political transformation. He will be joined by John Hagelin, quantum physicist and Natural Law Party presidential candidate. \$12. 7pm. Marina and Buchanan sts. 800-373-9664, ext. 471.

#### First Congregational Church, Oakland

Slavayanka, San Francisco's men's Russian chorus, performs Rachmaninov's Vespers, sung in original Slavonic. \$12-\$15. 7pm. 2501 Harrison St. 510-601-TWEB.

#### Metropolitan Community Church

The gay folk-music duo Mark and Dean perform music off their debut CD, *Walking into Freedom*, as well as songs from their upcoming release, *Man of My Dreams*. "Our music speaks of love and freedom, and affirms the lives of gay people," state the duo. 7pm. 150 Eureka St.

#### SF Art Institute

German filmmaker Matthias Müller, known for his autobiographical work as well as for his reappropriations of Hollywood films, returns in person to the Cinematheque with two new pieces: *Vacancy*, his 1998 travelogue set in Brasilia, and *Phoenix Tapes*, a reworking of shots from 40-odd Hitchcock films. Also screening: *Aus der Ferne: The Memo Book* (1989), an intimate, tactile meditation on the male body and how death has affected gay desire. \$7; students & seniors \$4. 7:30pm. 800 Chestnut St. 558-8129.

## Mon 10

#### Paul K

QComedy.com presents "Gay Comedy Showcase" hosted by Nick Leonard, with Andrew Norelli, Miracle Malone, Helen Slayton-Hughes, Dana Cory, Maggie Dolan, David Guiney, Chantal, and Dan Rothenberg. \$5. 8pm.

#### A Different Light

Author Terry Wolverton reads from his new book, *Mystery Bruise*. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

#### Red Vic Movie House

*A Place Called Chiapas* (1998), directed by Nettie Wild. This documentary explores the uprising of the ongoing Zapatista rebellion that broke out in 1994 in southern Mexico. Includes intimate footage of Marcos, the charismatic and intellectual leader who sparked the revolt. \$6.50. 7:15pm & 9:15pm. 1727 Haight St. 668-3994.

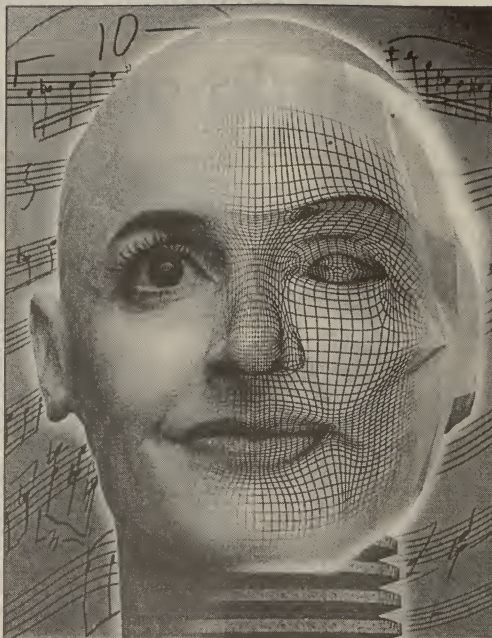
## Tue 11

#### The Plush Room

Amanda McBroom, famous as both a performer and songwriter (she penned "The Rose" for Bette Midler), returns to the Plush Room for an evening of original songs called "Portraits." Joining McBroom will be her pianist and musical arranger Michele Bournman. \$20-\$25, plus two-drink minimum. Thru April 23. After Tuesday's opening, shows run Wed-Sat at 8pm, Sun at 3pm. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. (bet. Leavenworth & Hyde). 885-2800.

#### Yerba Buena Ice Skating Center

"Rainbow Skate," a private gay & lesbian skating party, hits the ice every Tuesday night. Invitations to



The Angst Ensemble presents *Henceforward...* at il Teatro 450. See Friday.

this "totally private" party can be found in many stores in the Castro. Bring the invite! \$6 entry; \$2.50 skate rental. 9:30-11pm. 18+ 750 Folsom St. (btwn 3rd & 4th; located on the Rooftop at Yerba Buena Gardens). 978-0929.

## Wed 12

#### Stop AIDS Project

Trannyfags present "What's Your Pleasure?" part of a workshop series by and for female-to-male transgendered folks who are exploring sex with men. Topics include having sex with bi-guys as well as doing it with other transies. A discussion will follow a viewing of some tranny porn. Free. 7pm. Stop AIDS Project, Main Conference Room, 2128 15th St. (at Market). 575-0150, ext. 224.

#### Venue 9

"Sub Human: Sea Tales from the Depths," a one-man spoken-word comedy that tracks performer Ed Holmes' life adventure, from boy to sailor to comedian. \$10. 8pm. 252 Ninth St. (bet. Folsom & Howard). 626-2169.

#### A Traveling Jewish Theatre

The Jewish Music Wednesdays series presents San Francisco Klezmer Experience, a group of musicians with modern sensibilities and a sparkling sense of humor. \$12. 8pm. 470 Florida St. (bet. 17th St. and Mariposa). 399-1809.

#### Yerba Buena Center

Film Arts Foundation presents "True Stories," an ongoing series of sneak peeks at new documentaries. \$7; students and seniors \$6. 8pm. 701 Mission (at Third St.). 552-FILM.

#### Magic Theatre

The world premiere of *Wyoming*, a new play by novelist and screenwriter Barry Gifford (*Wild at Heart*, *Lost Highway*). A road story that traverses both real and imaginary states, Wyoming leads its characters through uncertain but hopeful landscapes of the mind and explores the bittersweet promise of the American Dream. Directed by Amy Glazer. \$15-\$30. April 14-30. Previews April 12, 13. Wednesday-Saturday at 8:30pm; Sunday at 2:30pm. Bldg. 4, Fort Mason Center, Marina Blvd. at Buchanan St. 441-8822.

## Thu 13

#### Embarcadero Center

A Thursday farmers' market is coming to the Embarcadero. The market will feature about 30 vendors and include live entertainment, chef demonstrations, and product sampling. The market is organized in conjunction with the Center for Urban Education About Sustainable Agriculture. Eat wisely,

eat well, and save the Earth. Thursdays thru October 26. 4pm-7pm. Justin Herman Plaza. 772-0754.

#### The Mechanics' Institute

Elizabethan expert Mark Alexander addresses "Shakespeare and the Law," focusing on the issue of Shakespeare's authorship as related to his knowledge and perhaps practice of law. Does evidence support the theory that Edward de Vere is the real author of Shakespeare's works? Mr. Alexander reveals clues to the controversy. \$5. 6pm. 57 Post St., third floor. 393-0114.

#### Palace of the Legion of Honor

"Lambda at the Legion 2000," a gala reception and showing of "Georgia O'Keeffe, the Poetry of Things." Hors d'oeuvres, classical music, and refreshments. Sponsored by Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund. \$150. 6:30-8:30pm. 34th Ave. & Clement. Info: Art McDermott, (323) 937-2728, ext. 226.

#### Slim's

CD release party for See Jane Run's new album *Last Night's Dream* (Ritadewey Records). With Glitter Mini 9, Lisa Dewey (Kitchen Whore Records) and Shackleton. Sonic assistance by DJ Dragn'fly (Epiphany). Free. 8:30pm. 333 11th St. 522-0333.

#### Robert Koch Gallery

Opening reception for "Clarence White: Figure and Light" as well as work by acclaimed, controversial photographer Jock Sturges. The artists will be present. Free. 5:30-7:30pm. 49 Geary St. 421-0122.

#### Theatre Artaud

Theatre of Yugen presents *The Good Guys: An American Tragedy*, by Michael Edo Keane, directed by Keane and Miko Lee. Based on a true-crime story, *Good Guys* utilizes poetry and documentary images to explore filial responsibility, post-traumatic stress, and the warrior mythology in the world of three young Vietnamese-American brothers and their family. \$18. April 13-16 and April 20-22 at 8pm. 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

## WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon  
Out & About  
Bay Area Reporter  
395 Ninth Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

## This Week's Dinner Specials



**Chicken Stroganoff** with mushrooms, marsala wine and sour cream served over fettucini .....\$9.95

**Chicken Cordon Bleu** stuffed with honey-baked ham & fontina cheese served with vegetable, and garlic mashed potatoes .....\$10.75

**Grilled 12 oz. New York Steak** with bearnaise sauce, fresh vegetable, crispy french fries and onion rings .....\$13.95

**Grilled Fresh Salmon** with lemon-dill sauce and garlic mashed potatoes or chef's rice .....\$12.95

**Prime Rib au Jus** with baked potato and creamy horseradish .....\$13.95

### Patio Cafe

531 Castro Street, between 18th/19th  
Breakfast/Lunch served from 9:00 AM  
Dinner Served from 5:00 PM



## Glama-Rama!

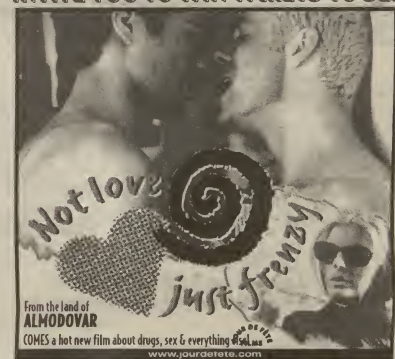
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"Not Love Just Frenzy" opens in San Francisco on Friday, April 14th.

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## LEATHER SCENE

# Spotlight on Seattle

by Mister Marcus

The hotter guys are, the more willing they are to dip into their wallets. Case in point: While the entire West Coast from Seattle to San Diego enjoyed record high temperatures all last weekend, the leather communities in Seattle and San Francisco made record-breaking amounts of money for various charities.

Last weekend was the culmination of Leather Pride Week in Seattle, where all sorts of hot events took place, including the big Tom of Finland show, the Mr. Washington State Leather 2000 contest, and the Emerald Awards, where locals and one National Emerald Award winner were honored.

I arrived in Seattle with Lenny Broberg and Pam Meyer, and soon we were helping Bruce Saari, Jim Black, Billy Lane, Bruce Chopnik and George Ray judge the big contest. Three men were vying for the title: Craig Kelso, Doug Mayne and Adrian Tupree. Almost the entire Northwest was represented by title-holders from Vancouver, British Columbia (John Lait), Portland, Oregon (Tony Frazier), Mr. Oregon State Leather (Craig West) and Mr. Alaska Leather (Jack Darnell) — most of whom will be competing at Int'l. Mr. Leather in Chicago next May, with the sole exception of Mr. Darnell who is obliged to wait until May 2001 to compete. It should be most interesting in Chicago for Int'l. Mr. Leather 2001.

It's safe to say that Tim Franulovich, who is president of (Washington State Mr. Leather Organization (WASMLO), was the coolest head prevailing over the weekend.

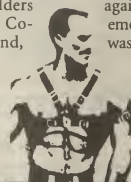
Most of the action centered around The Cuff Complex. The magnificent staff there left no stone unturned in producing a classy affair. They managed to keep everyone fed, happy, entertained and nurtured with camaraderie and libations.



Int'l Ms. Leather Pam Meyer, left, and Int'l Mr. Leather Bruce Chopnik, right, congratulated Craig Kelso a few minutes after he was named Mr. Washington State Leather 2000 at the Cuff Complex in Seattle last Saturday night, April 1.

Even Lenny Broberg got into the act, and I daresay he could match Andy Rose when it comes to downing those cactus shots!

Of course Frank Nowicki again outdid himself as the emcee, and the entertainment was top-notch, especially with Empress La Trina Bidet (not that's camp!). There was also a touching remembrance ceremony that invoked fond memories of fallen brothers and sisters.



**Bazaar**

Lots of items from the estate of the late Lee Willis, a premier leather maker from Seattle, were auctioned off during the contest on Saturday night and also the next day at the Emerald Awards/Victory Brunch, all to the tune of almost \$6,000 raised for the Leather Archives & Museum.

Sales at the Tom of Finland art show hauled in nearly \$4,000, so most of Seattle's fundraising efforts all weekend went to out-of-state agencies. Yes, Seattle is right up there with other major cities when it comes to support for worthy causes.

After the meet & greet on Friday, the pre-judging interviews and other rituals on Saturday, the current Seattle Leather Daddy,

Craig Kelso, emerged as the winner of the Mr. Washington State Leather 2000 title. The first runner-up was Adrian Tupree and the second runner-up was Doug Mayne.

Before the winners were announced, the National Emerald Award was presented to San Francisco's own Philip Turner who graciously accepted the stunning crystal award. Considering the other nominees, it was a pleasant surprise that Philip won in the WASMLO voting. To date, three San Franciscans have won this award.

Apart from Tim Franulovich, a lot of credit goes to Alan McGuire, formerly the guiding mentor of Portland's Black Out Productions. I would hope he and Audrey Joseph would someday collaborate on a project. What a production that would be!

### Fieri weekend

Meanwhile back home here in San Francisco, a nasty fire in the vicinity of 12th & Folsom on Saturday nearly put a damper on the Knights of Malta anniversary party at the Eagle. Fortunately, all turned out well.

On Thursday night, March 30, seven men tromped to the stage of

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Thursday, April 6

Big Basket Contest at The Edge. The usual shenanigans, with Danny Williams and The Old Bag riding the herd.

### Saturday, April 8

Cal Eagles MC one day ride to the East Bay Hills and the Delta. Meet at 0930 at Daddy's Bar; depart at 1000. Be prepared with a full tank of gas plus money for lunch and bridge tolls.

Mr. Russian River Eagle Leather 2000 contest at the newest leather bar in Sonoma County. Graylin Thornton is the MC.

### Sunday, April 9

Second Anniversary of Sundance Saloon at 174 King St. Action begins at 1800; dance until 2300. Entry is free! It's the only C/W game in town and the crowds are growing. Thanks Ingu and your volunteers!

### Monday, April 10

MaSt gathering at Club Eros at 1930. Subject this time is Mind Control & Hypnosis, featuring Masters Stanford and Jerry.

Deadline today for Constantines MC weekend run to Reno later this month. See above for details.

### Wednesday, April 12

Golden Shower Buddies splash around at 933 Harrison St. tonight. Doors open from 2000-2300. Flow freely. For info, call 863-HEAD.

### Thursday, April 13

Mr. September 2001 will be chosen tonight at the Powerhouse for the Bare Chest Calendar. Judging: Dann Cantrell, Marshall Miller.

### Weekend, April 14-16

Virginia Drummer & Drummer Boy contests in Norfolk and Virginia Beach, put on by the Knight Hawks MC. Meet & greet on Friday at The Garage. Saturday is cocktail party and formal dinner at 2000 and the contest at 2200. For info and reservations, click on: [knights606@aol.com](mailto:knights606@aol.com).

Regiment of the Black & Tans in Los Angeles annual Maneuvers.

Single Men's Weekend at the Russian River.

### Saturday, April 15

The Golden Gate Guards MC present the annual Golden Dilleaux Awards tonight at the Eagle, \$6 beer/soda bust with Donna Sachet & Lenny Broberg emcee'ing. 22 categories and always a riotous event.

Mr. Boston Leather competition at the Boston Ramrod from 2200 to midnight.

### Sunday, April 16

Inter-Club Fund Bike Day 2000 begins with the annual Blessing of the Bikes at Daddy's at 1030, a ride around town, and returning in time for the Satyrs MC of Los Angeles beer/soda bust at the Eagle at 1500 for \$8. Don't miss it!



## POLKSTRASSE

# Down Mexico way

by Sweet Lips

This month, Dickie Deemer, Bart Dreyer and Yours Truly will be heading South of the Border, down Mexico way, for another extended stay in Puerto Valarta, April 17 through Easter. Deemer is looking for a house to buy for his buddy Ramón — then we'll not have to stay at a hotel. We're looking forward to a fabulous dinner at the Adobe Café.

You are invited to help Robbie, aka Helen Trent, celebrate his 65th birthday on Sunday, April 9, 1-5

p.m. at the Giraffe Video Lounge, 1131 Polkstrasse. Buffet by Dennis ("Deli Lamba") Tyler, strippers, fun 'n' frolic, so be there.

The Club Rendez-Vous Hitmen softball team plays the Lone Star Bears on Sunday, April 16, 10:30 a.m. at Kimball Field #1.

Then the R-V will be having a fundraiser for the team from 2-7 p.m. Come join the fun and meet members of the team, co-

sponsored by the Steamworks in Berkeley.

Emperor Stephen Racher, my boss David Kapp, and Yours Truly wish to thank Steve Suss and the staff of the Embers/Avenue — especially Danny and Little John of Silverado — for the fabulous time they showed us last weekend — such hospitality!

Little Mikey of Reflections is on a diet — all 100 lbs. of him! ▼



**Cocktail Hour**

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

the Powerhouse to vie for the August 2001 spot on the calendar. The contenders were Art Arciniega, Sid Forman, Mike Goglia, Robert Moyer, Kipling Smith, Glenn Tait and David Tagliarini. Judges Donna Sachet, André English and Glennon Sutter had a tough time deciding the winner, but in the end, Art Arciniega took the top spot and David Tagliarini was the runner-up. Mr. September 2001 will be chosen on Thursday, April 13. Be there!

On Sunday, April 2, Leather Daddy André English and Daddy's Boy Lance Brittain staged a slave auction at Daddy's and raised almost \$4,500 for the AIDS Emergency Fund. Bravo! Good show! It was another stunning display of what our leather titleholders are doing for this community, and we should all be proud of their efforts.

If you're planning to go to Reno with the Constantines MC the weekend of April 28-30, be advised that the deadline for applications is Monday, April 10. Need an application? Call 873-3744 or 642-8399. Don't put it off!



Art Arciniega, left, was chosen Mr. August 2001 for the bare chest calendar last Thursday, March 30 at the powerhouse. With him was first runner-up David Tagliarini. Mr. September 2001 will be chosen on Thursday, April 13.

### Another loss

It is my sad duty to report that Clive Platman, International Mr. Drummer 1990, succumbed to AIDS complications on Wednesday, March 23 in Auckland, New Zealand where he had been living for the past several years. Clive

was the first Australian leather man to win the title, along with John Siracusa who was the International Drummer Boy that same year. They became lovers after the competition and did a fantastic job with the titles. At my deadline, there was no word of a memorial service or survivors. ▼

## Gendernauts

◀ page 31

MTFs, and intact "goddesses" of the movement like Annie Sprinkle and "trans hag" Tornado — are engaged with society to a considerable degree. Sandy Stone and Susan Stryker, both MTFs, are well-known academics; FTM's Stafford, Texas Tomboy, and Jordy Jones are visual artists and Web mavens. Treut shows them partying, having dinner, skydiving, riding motorcycles, performing their art, and having fun. What sets them apart is their determination to live in a way that pleases them, without the restrictions of gender roles, which involves treating their own bodies as the ultimate canvas.

Their sense of heroic opposition and experimentation permeates the film and provides much of its interest. Texas Tomboy, for

example, refuses all labels, which confounds his/her adopted "mother," Tornado. Stafford is an artist who answers the question "Are you a boy or a girl?" with "Yes." Sandy Stone talks about the "endless" varieties of gender, and if that's surely a wild overstatement, the film shows enough variants to give plenty of food for thought. Among the most intriguing interviewees is Hida Vilario, born a girl but with, as she says, in some respects "a male body." She tells a hilarious story about a vacation where she was mistaken by everybody for "this flaming fag traipsing through Costa Rica with a little top on." Hida looks like a boy, lives as a dyke, and happily inhabits a "middle ground" between male and female.

Still, this path can't be an easy one, despite nature's apparent approval via the hyena's example,

and this is one area where the film falls short. It's a little reminiscent of *Word Is Out* in looking at the lives of a pretty bourgeois group. They're all highly intelligent, verbally adroit, in some cases gorgeous and charismatic, and seemingly quite settled in their lives. There are moments when a rougher reality emerges, as when they talk about past discrimination or dealing with shady doctors dispensing potentially harmful gender-altering drugs. But for the most part, this is an almost too uplifting and congenial a picture. In Treut's defense, it's clear that she's aware of the film's narrow scope, so it may be overreaching to fault her for not making a deeper study of the range of experience in the TG world. ▼

**Gendernauts opens Friday, April 7 at the Lumiere Theatre.**

## Spike & Mike

◀ page 31

by the Squirrel Nut Zippers.

The fest's more seriously artful side can be seen in several entries. David Gainey's *Fishing* is a stark, plaintive drama about, well, fishing, starring a Jules Feiffer-like character drawn with simple lines and played out against a pure white background. More proof, if it were needed, that less is more. Much more complex, and thrilling

indeed, is Vuk Jevremovic's *Panther*, a ravishing pencil drawing evocation of the cat's majestic beauty, inspired by a Rilke poem.

Majesty and beauty are all well and good, but how about nasty, lowdown humor? Darren Walsh's *Angry Kid* fits this bill. The subject of several vignettes, the "angry kid" is a monstrous brat with blazing red hair that sticks out to a point on either side. This gruesome, grinning creature torments his father, demanding to hear his favorite tape ("Captain Thunder-

pants") and mock-innocently running down a list of dirty words for possible use. In one scene he's watching a sex education video that includes such dubiously clinical dialogue as, "The baby is pushed out of the woman's poontang." The kid, animated by the folks who created *Wallace and Grommit*, is sufficiently freaky to inspire a mini-cult.

One of the standouts (and like several of the works this year, an award winner) is Eugene Fe-

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# Denmark's perfect pop

## Aqua and other Danish sounds

by Alex Robertson Textor

In the fall of 1997, Danish pop band Aqua exploded into the global big time with the single "Barbie Girl" and the album *Aquarium* (MCA). They became the guiltiest kind of pleasure, making the kind of music that only children under 8 are supposed to like. Taking pleasure in pop music of Aqua's ilk is widely experienced as some kind of dirty secret.

Aqua can't be understood outside of the cultural context of Danish pop music. The pop music coming out of Denmark seeks to create flawless perfection. Danish pop shaves off the edges, appropriates and revamps. Credibility is not its first concern. Attempting irony, it is meticulously produced, and sung almost exclusively in English.

Aqua have inspired a copycat. A duo called Toy-Box, also from Denmark, have followed in Aqua's footsteps. Toy-Box have sold decently in Europe and Asia by directly regurgitating various features of Aqua's first album — sequencer-driven dance beats, extremely gendered vocals, and heavy stylization.

Aqua themselves appear to be moving away from this trademark sound. To be sure, *Aquarius* (new from MCA) cranks out the purest pop. It's just not quite so formulaic. Thankfully, male vocalist René Dif has ceased to unleash his painfully bad Nordic rapping; for

her part, female vocalist Lene Nystøm relies less on high-pitched, overtly girly vocals.

Most songs on *Aquarius* invoke an explicit and contained narrative, neatly priming the imaginations of future video directors. Cashing in on the Latin craze is "Cuba Libre"; a mini-horror movie is encapsulated in "Halloween"; a country-and-western video could easily be spun from "Freaky Friday." These songs are stories unto themselves, more events than songs.

The triumphalism of the orchestrations is striking. They go for broke on each track. These arrangements are a far cry from the organization of "Barbie Girl." For the most part, the ballads and mid-tempo tracks are less seductive than the dancier songs, but the entire album is captivating. While the first album unleashed a recognizable sound, *Aquarius* contains fewer soundalikes.

Aqua have managed to create an album rare among recent pop releases in its complete absence of samples. Aside from the orchestration of the chorus on "Around the World" (reminiscent of Abba's "The Winner Takes It All"), the steals are few and far between. Clearly, Aqua realize that they can't rely on what has come to be recognized as the Aqua sound. The only tracks on *Aquarius* that sound like the old Aqua are "Halloween" and "Bumble Bees."

### Trance and alligators

Danish pop music doesn't simply consist of Aqua and Aqua-like exaggeration. Trance formation Hampenberg's high-pitched vocals and stuttered techno on songs like "Grab that thing" and "Show some class" take commercial trance to a slightly darker, twisted place. There is more than an incidental nod to drum 'n' bass, as well as early '80s R&B in the sharp edges of these beats and vocals.

Not a million musical miles from Hampenberg is Denmark's latest dance pop success story, the DJ Aligator Project. The Project's first release, "The Whistle Song," moved straight from floor-filler to the top of the Danish singles chart earlier this month. DJ Aligator (the spelling cites the DJ's name, Ali) netted a record contract after he pressed and distributed 200 copies of "Whistle Song" to clubs.

Perhaps the most promising of recent Danish acts is the Barcode Brothers, whose quiet tunes are denuded of the brassiness found in most contemporary trance. The Barcode Brothers have dubbed their music "minimalistic pop-techno." It is spare music,



Aqua singer Lene Nystøm

and all the more beguiling for this sparseness. Songs like "Dooh dooh" and "Tele" have been quite successful in Denmark, and they have a haunting effect.

Danish pop music made for preteen audiences, sung in Danish and clearly not designed to be marketed outside of Denmark (for example, Blå Øjne and Creamy) is also very clever and very smoothly produced. These acts produce excellent music by any pop standard, putting enough energy into hook-littered choruses to soundtrack countless adolescences.

Denmark would seem to be a breeding ground of noteworthy and exciting pop music, all the more so because it doesn't understand itself in terms of authenticity. This context helps to explain how an album as seamless and perfect as *Aquarius* could come to be. ▼

### Blomstedt

◀ page 34

#### Heavy set

Last week, Blomstedt wrapped up his stay with a big concerto performance and a rather heavy-handed but ultimately satisfying set of variations by neglected composer Max Reger. Pianist Horacio Gutierrez gave a meticulous if uninspired rendition of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5, the *Emperor*, and the game musicians made a meal of Reger's Variations and Fugue on a Theme by J. Adam Hiller (also a SFS first).

Gutierrez proves his ability with every appearance. His tone is big and his playing sharply defined. The *Emperor* has had many remarkable interpreters in modern times, and we have been treated on disc to the poetry of Murray Perahia, the magisterial command of Artur Schnabel, the fire of Daniel Barenboim and the perfect phrasing of Wilhelm Kempff. Gutierrez can hardly compete, but his clarity and poise make a strong impression, even if we never really get much in the way of personal insight.

The Reger Variations prompted Blomstedt to give his own kind of MTT introduction, stepping up to a microphone to make clear what was hardly a mystery to begin with. His droll remarks almost bordered on whimsy, but like an eccentric and well-liked uncle, he charmed us with the story of a girl who found eleven ways to keep her lover. The Variations could be more succinct, but they are by turns amusing and imposing, and they were given a bang-up performance. With so much Reger going unheard, it was surprising to find this piece on the bill. Still, we must thank Herbert Blomstedt for finally bringing the Variations here. Naturally, we'll be looking forward to his next visit.

MTT won't be back at Davies until May, but the past weeks have proven that good music can still be heard in his absence. Coming weeks include some major concerto performances, with the return of pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet in Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1, the Shostakovich Cello Concerto No. 2 with Michael Grebanier, Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 with Garick Ohlsson, and Midori playing the Dvorak Violin Concerto. ▼

### Spike & Mike

◀ previous page

dorenko and Rose Newlove's *Village of Idiots*. Based on a Jewish folk tale, the film has hilarious dialogue, to wit: "People called us a village of idiots, but our rabbi said we were a village of geniuses with our own way of figuring things out." Lead character Schmendrick is a classic mensch who's so stupid he leaves town and returns thinking he's in a different town, and the story takes innumerable absurd turns from there. The brown pencil art is highly evocative, and the imagery consistently witty, as in the scene when Schmendrick plants his ass on a chimney, forcing smoke into a house and inspiring hysteria throughout the town. One of the fest's most bizarre

entries is also the most poignant, Pjotr Sapegin's *One Day a Man Bought a House*. This twisted, ultimately endearing piece turns extermination — the house has a human-size female rat who wears a dress — into a love affair, as the rat interprets all the man's attempts to get rid of her, from poison "rat salami" to a bear trap, as attempts at courtship. A photo album showing their happy nuptials and honeymoon (their images are added to photos of real people) gives this charming allegory about outsiders coming together just the right touch of strangeness and poetry, a phrase that might well sum up the whole festival. ▼

Spike & Mike's 2000 Classic Festival of Animation plays the Castro Theatre April 7-19.

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Pregnancy should be avoided in women receiving SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in primates dosed with SUSTIVA. Barrier contraception should always be used in combination with other methods of contraception.

**Talk to your doctor when you start taking SUSTIVA.** SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Always tell your doctor if you are taking, starting or changing any prescription or non-prescription medicine when taking SUSTIVA. Your doctor may change your medicines or change their dose. You should discuss your prior medical conditions (such as mental illness, substance abuse, hepatitis, etc.) with your doctor before taking SUSTIVA.

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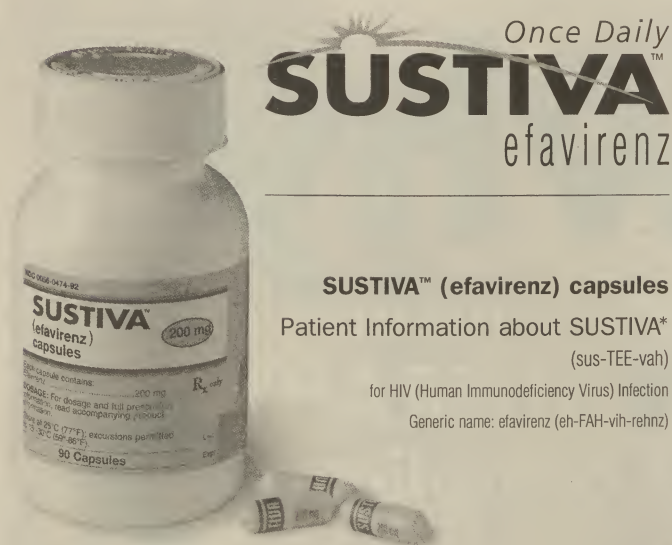
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1. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 1999.

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### Patient Information about SUSTIVA\* (sus-TEE-vah)

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Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

#### What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

#### How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

#### Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

#### Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

#### How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

#### Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

#### Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

#### What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

- Talk to your doctor right away if you:
  - Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
  - Are breast-feeding
  - Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
  - Start or change any medicine
  - Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)
  - Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

#### What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. Rarely, patients have more serious side effects that may affect mood or ability to think clearly. These side effects occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

#### What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

#### Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
  - Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.
- Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:\*\*

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:\*\*

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

#### How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

#### How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

**This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.**

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Issued September, 1998



## BOOKS

## The Wedding

◀ Arts cover

know, the one in the commercials where they serve unsuspecting customers Folger's coffee. When you read about it in restaurant reviews, it's invariably called a 'favorite place to pop the question.'

The question that was popped turned out to have a long fuse attached, a fuse that would slowly burn for the next year and a half. Like an old vaudeville act, Doug and Andrew's wedding plans would inspire a fair share of running gags, pratfalls, double-takes and double entendres, both within the extended Wythe and Merling clans and through television to a global village of millions. To

enough to title as well as number their chapters. Fittingly, Chapter One, dealing with the blind date, courtship and engagement, is called "A Risky Proposition." Both Doug and Andrew had been suffering through the dating blahs — both had been dumped, humiliatingly enough, by guys they worked with — so it was off to Brunch Buddies rent-a-yenta for some love in the afternoon. Since Doug worked in television, Andrew figured the least that could happen was that he would get to meet Joan Rivers. Doug was just happy if the waiters at the restaurant he had been haunting during his bachelor days didn't write him off as a hooker.

Six dates later, the boys are taking time to get know each other,

make their case for an event that would attract the eyes of two nations.

During the Jazz Age of the '20s, prosperity and a sense of boundless opportunities fueled the Harlem Renaissance and made African-American civil rights seem both impossible and somehow irrelevant. A worldwide depression, war and revolution would inspire new dreams and new heroes. In the '70s, personal freedoms carved out in the '60s were taken to the limits of desire and biological possibility. The *fin de siècle* brought AIDS, the end of the Cold War and a technological revolution that has again made necessary new dreams and new kinds of heroes.

At the end of *The Wedding*, Sheldon, the man who didn't want to be a pioneer, gets up at his gay son's nuptials and toasts a roomful of pioneers. "I have had many 'heroes' or people I have admired and respected over the years. They have changed and evolved over time. They may have started with comic-book characters in my youth to people in sports during my adolescent years, but today I have a clearer picture of the people I truly respect and appreciate — my 'heroes of today,' if you like. I am referring to you, my friends — not compelled to be here ... We wish Doug and Andrew a hearty *mazel tov* and tell them that they are amongst true friends." ▼

**Doug and Andrew discover to their horror that they both have control issues. It's a crisis when they can't agree on a couch color.**

put it bluntly, what Doug and Andrew were asking Andrew's somewhat liberal parents was not merely to bless their relationship, but to give their son and his lover — soon to be spouse — the full trappings of a traditional wedding ceremony.

The idea of giving their boy away to another boy would give Roslyn and Sheldon Merling more than their fair share of doubts and second thoughts. Their son's gayness didn't bother them, nor his sleeping with a guy under their roof, nor calling themselves domestic partners. But a wedding — in Jewish Montreal! The journey from the ring at Sign of the Dove to the soulful kiss in a banquet room at Eaton's was to be a bumpy one.

## Chat it out

*The Wedding* is really a non-fiction novel with four authors. The book is an offshoot of interviews done with Doug Wythe and the Merlings for the ABC program *Turning Point*, where Wythe works as a producer. In fact, consenting to sit for the cameras turned out to be a catalyst in pushing Sheldon Merling to pay for a ceremony about which he had grave doubts. *The Wedding* reads like an ongoing chat room where Doug, Andrew, Roslyn and Sheldon agree to keep talking until they find common ground or exhaust themselves trying. Four individuals taking the time to really discover who each other are and the uncomfortable distances that separate them — why, when Doug and Andrew say "wedding," Sheldon and Roslyn hear "commitment ceremony."

*The Wedding* is also like a long gossip miniseries where we get to eavesdrop on four unique characters: Wythe, during most of his youth estranged from his family, whose previous relationships included one with a man who could only be sexual while pretending to be asleep; Merling, a young Canadian trying to make it professionally in New York while enduring a series of affairs where he was the one who cared too much; Sheldon Merling, a father who finds himself having raised two gay sons, one flesh of his flesh and the other by adoption; and Roslyn Merling, a professional social worker who remembers very casually asking Andrew if he and Doug were considering marriage. What could she have been thinking?

*The Wedding* revives one of my favorite literary stunts — writers who are daring and imaginative

and suddenly it all clicks, one sunny day at the beach. Fast forward now to moving in together — Doug and Andrew discover to their horror that they both have control issues. Dreams of marriage nearly die when they can't agree on a couch color. Things look grim for our heroes until that magic night at Sign of the Dove when Doug brings Andrew's attention to the gold band on his dessert plate.

## Tart of gold

Doug: "My palms were moist with sweat by the time the tart arrived. At first I didn't see any gold poking out from under the front 'V' of the tart... Would the ring wind up under another patron's dessert, the scene ending with my forced announcement to the room that the ring was really intended for my, ummm ... boyfriend?"

Andrew: "When I first held the gold band and examined it, I wasn't playing dumb. I really hadn't gotten it yet. Then Doug said the words, 'Will you marry me?'... Of course, I said yes, but I was nervous, even scared. Just how scared, I didn't realize until later. Those feelings were hidden deep."

The Sign of the Dove having given flight to their dream, Doug and Andrew were unprepared for how Roslyn and Sheldon would greet their "good news." Sheldon, by temperament a cautious if not conservative man, made a mantra out of his desire not to be a pioneer, and to her horror, Roslyn found herself agreeing with him. "As Sheldon repeated his fear, for the fourth or fifth time, 'It's never been done! What will people say about this?' I had an epiphany that stirred me to an astonishing self-realization. I looked at Sheldon, and his negative reaction to the news of the wedding. And to my shock, I saw myself in him ... I've been holding back. When Andrew talks to me about this, I clam up. I'm not overjoyed. Why have I been behaving this way?"

*The Wedding* illustrates a paradox of North American social history — that the Jewish community has been a veritable caldron of fervor for civil rights and social change movements, but it is one thing to root for the downtrodden in the South or Latin America, and quite another to support a social revolution within one's own family. Doug and Andrew had one thing going for them — their wedding date was 18 months away, and as events would prove, they would need every moment to

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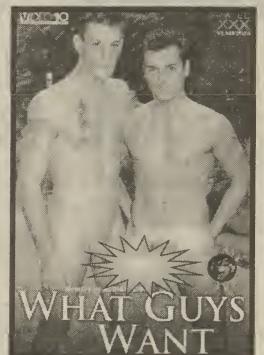
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# BAR TALK

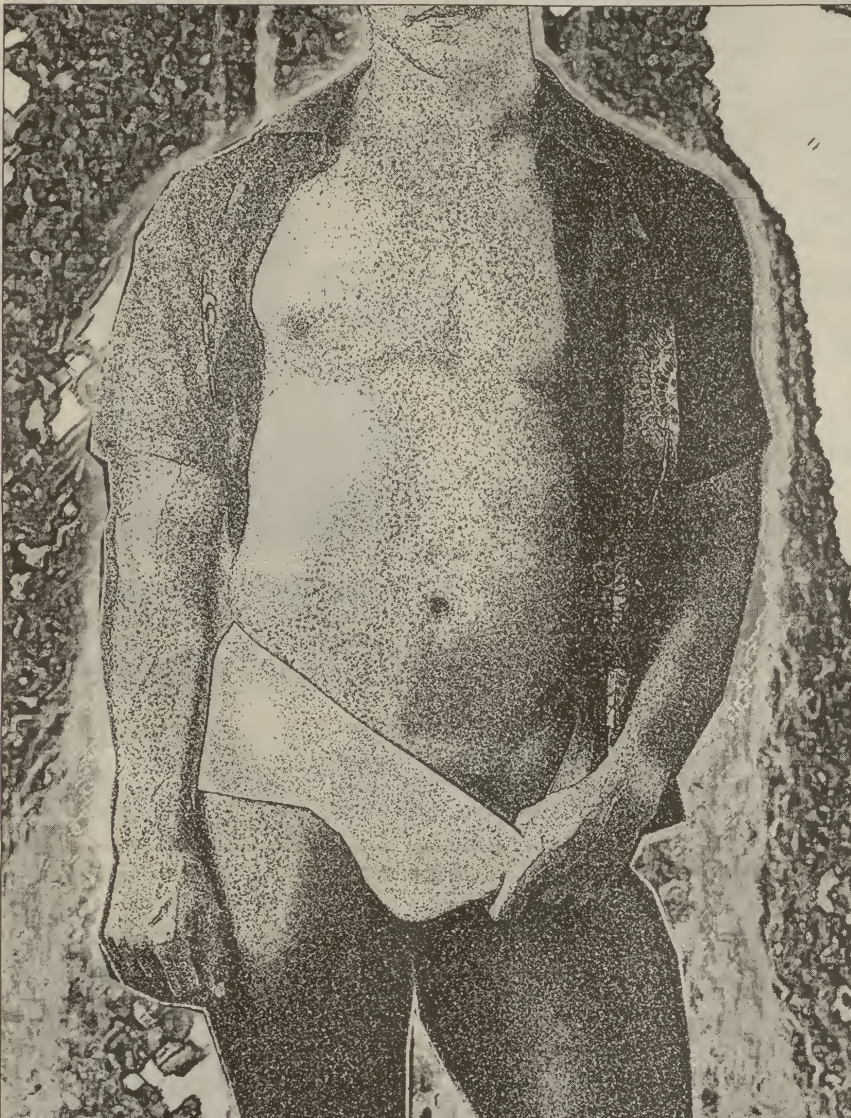


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- Seeking Relationship ☐
- Seeking Adventure ☐
- Lesbian ☐
- Fetishes ☐
- Couples ☐
- Others ☐

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Headline, 30 characters maximum  
Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

**MAIL FORM TO:** BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

### PARTING GLANCES

**Bear Flag On Your Backpack**  
Van Ness Station 3/10. You: Asian, we exchanged a lot of smiles but your train came before I could say hello. Would like a second chance to meet you. ☎ 71694

**Ocean Beach Safeway Feb 7**  
You told me I had beautiful hair. Me: Tall, dark and can't stop thinking about you. Our paths crossed near produce section and we said hello. Would love another chance! Call me. ☎ 71695

**Powell Station Mar 7 10:30 AM**  
You told me I had beautiful hair. Wish I'd have said more than Thank You. Would like to compliment you in person. ☎ 71696

**35 Diamond Hts Rainy Tues 3-07**  
I couldn't keep from looking at you, and you caught me. You broke the tension with a double-take. I missed my stop at 28th. You're stop came too late. ☎ 71697

**Aloha Bernard!!!!!!**  
Was visiting from Hawaii, you had a great smile had you number but lost it, call me, Kelly. ☎ 71698

**Napa Valley Grille @ Yountville**  
Cute Asian guy w/2 female Asian friends taking photographs outside. Me: Inside Dinning, you drove off w/silver VW or Audi 4:15 2/11. Smiles & glances, big time! Meet????????? ☎ 71699

**Thursday Night 3/9 2:30am**  
On Diamond Street near the park.. You in a silver SUV, me reading on the doorstep. I'd like to meet you again. S 71725

**Wed. March 22 Rockridge Bart**  
You- black shirt, jacket and jeans, prematurely white hair. I'm confused by your ring. You knew I was interested. You flashed a dazzling smile and spoke as you detoured. ☎ 71764

### SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**Handsome GWM**  
34yo, 5'10", 160lbs. Interested in meeting a 30-45yo Japanese or Chinese gentleman for friendship/dating. Glasses a plus. ☎ 71700

**Handsome Muscular Italian**  
40, 6'2", 185lbs, into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times seeks another HIV negative extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 71701

**Bear Bottom Seeks Bear Top**  
Hairy GWM academic, 60, short, stocky, muscular legs, responsive nips (suck,pinch) hungry hole, thirsty throat, craves thick dick, HIV-, brain & brawn A+ for LTR. ☎ 71702

**Attractive Latino**  
Goodlooking Latino, 34yo, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, professional looking for GWM between 26-45yo for friendship. Me: Like to go to movies, dinner, travel, hiking, biking etc. Call me.... ☎ 71703

**Looking for my Soulmate**  
Shy HIV-, NS, GM, 33, 5'9", 160lbs. Not into bars or drugs. Seeking a clean cut HIV- NS fit partner under 50, for friendship, dating and a future together. ☎ 71704

**Passionate Sensual Bottom**  
GWM 35, HIV+, Br/Hzl, 170, 6'1". Seeks 35-45yo tops, HIV+, wanting to be fuckbuddys. A great humor, outlook a must. Wanting mutual man to man sex. ☎ 71705

**Handsome 50+**  
GWM, 51, handsome, Italian, hairy seeks friends, dates, romance. Live in East Bay but interested in all. ☎ 71706

**Attention**  
SYBM, 6'3", strong build, sincere, intelligent, loving and incarcerated. My past is not my potential. ISO; Loving, outgoing, sincere Jewish, Asian, Latin feminine oriented male 4 companionship. ☎ 71707

**Hot French Love**  
French guy in 30's or 40's desired for more than friendship by hung romantic blue eyed European in 30's. ☎ 71727

**Seeking Hispanic/Blond Blue18-21**  
I'm Hispanic, blk, hr. brn. eyes olive complexion, 24yrs. 157lbs. HIV-. Considered good looking comments made. Prefer significant other/friends HIV- No overweights/fems. ☎ 71728

**Love me Tender I'll be Only 4 you**  
I'm 36, 5'5", 142lbs. Latino, not, horny, clean, educated, stable, nice tool 8". HIV+ healthy, masculine, seeking GM under 41 for romance. ☎ 71729

**What Matters Comes After Sex**  
My penis and frame are small. My heart is big and my spirit universal. I'm cute, compassionate, honest, HIV+, loyal, smart, funny, stable, and a sturdy 51. I return calls. ☎ 71730

**Black Seeks Cute White Guy**  
I'm 27, handsome, 5'10", slim, muscular body, seeking cute clean shaven slim caucasian 5'8" to 6", masculine with fair skin and eyes for sincere dating 18-45 student/professionals. ☎ 71731

**Latinized WM Top ISO LM/AM/BM**  
Spirited, spiritual, passionate men of masculine strength/softness/muscularly defined, very in-shape 5'6", 145lbs, 30" w, HIV-, 48" seeks masculine toned sparky, affectionate bottom or versatile LM/AM/BM under 5'9". ☎ 71732

**Handsome GBM**  
39yo GWM, 6'3", 185lbs, lean swimmers build, prof. vers. top, HIVneg, safe, ISO hdsn, gym-toned male any race HIVneg, 30-45, for dating and possible LTR. ☎ 71733

**Leather Dad ISO Boy**  
Intelligent, mass dom WM 57, 6', 225, ISO fit white or Latino boy for play & LTR in Oakland dungeon/playroom. ☎ 71734

**SF Senior Seeks Younger Man**  
GWM, 76, 165, seeks attr, honest, sincere, submissive 18-45yo man for ongoing sex. I'm dominant but loving, caring and respectful. Open to LTR with right man. ☎ 71735

**Seeking Matured Man**  
Searching for matured man late 50's to 60's, weight proportioned to height that would enjoy being serviced periodically. No reciprocation necessary. Must have your own place. ☎ 71736

**Just A Call Away**  
GWM, 42, 6'3", 200lbs, HIV-, S&P hair, grn eyes, handsome, seeks prof. interested in travel, music & entertaining. HIV- only pls. Let's chat. ☎ 71737

**GWM, 5'4" 158lbs. 32w Bld.**  
Blue eyes wears glasses. Average build uncut n/s n/d HIV- ISO Latino or BIK in good shape & health. I love kissing. ☎ 71765

**More Than Just Another Hot Man**  
Goodlooking muscular professional GWM 40, 5'10", 190, 46c 31w 17arms seeks buddy into camping, hiking, photography for friendship, and possibly more. Not into drugs, booze. Serious replies only. Won't be sorry. ☎ 71766

**Earth And Sky**  
I'm GWM, HIV-, creative, sexual; friendship, outdoor adventure, metaphysics, contrasts, dirty levis, natural raunch, ws, scat, 20-50, GJM or other communication freedom, home-loving outings; honesty chemistry, respect essential. ☎ 71767

**Are You Grmini**  
Mr. Too. nice guy, 44yo, 5'7", 150# br eyes, balding w/goatee. HIV-. Professional job. Looking for LTR w/sincere, romantic man. Let's meet or coffee. ☎ 71768

**Dominant Seeks Submissive**  
Interests: nature, architecture, music, art. Sex: fucking, butt-play, role-play, w/s. I'm a young, attractive 44, 5'10", 175lbs. br/bl, moustache/goatee. Seek responsible, 30-48yrs, h/wt proportionate, facial hair preferred. ☎ 71769

**I Like To Watch**  
Nice guy, goodlooking, 38, 160lbs. ISO sweet, sexy, quickwitted, mature guy. A fellow film enthusiast would be nice. Let's talk. ☎ 71770

**Good-Hearted Asian Top Wanted**  
Big WM bottom 6'3" 280lbs looking for Asian top. Likes: classic movies, reading, working out and quiet times with a good person. Looks not important, heart is. Honest & sincere. ☎ 71771

**The Hottest Guy In Town**  
Even the hottest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Always play safe. Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. Remember, safe sex is hot sex! ☎ SAFE



**Sexy & Passionate,**  
Lean, 5'8", 30yo, GWM desiring to date masculine guy with same passion in life enjoying traveling, movies and sex, though got heaps of emotional energy for the right person! You should too. Interested? Call. ☎ 71772

## SEEKING ADVENTURE

**Bi-Curious White Knight**  
Sexy 41yr. HIVneg, and ready for intimate play; tongue and hot sex after work at my apt in SF. ☎ 71708

**Private Gloryhole**  
Seeking male under 45 for oral worship-must be disease/drug free/in shape. Discretion guaranteed. No reciprocity necessary. Call today. ☎ 71709

**Like To Suck Cock & Get Fucked**  
GWM 5'11", 175lbs, HIV-, NS,ND, I like to suck cock 6" to 8" - Play with your ass and balls and get fucked while watching video's. Please call, race & age no factor. ☎ 71710

**Excellent In Bed Is Here!!!!!!**  
Want to experience the best sexual fantasies in your life? Call me. You-age 18-45, Black, Latino or White. Me - always hot, horny and hungry for men. ☎ 71711

**Rim Job For Asian By Hot WM**  
30yo, 5'10", 160# muscles, 8" cut, clean stud top wants to rim & fuck young smooth Asians - Weekdays. ☎ 71712

**2 Tops For Asian Or Latino**  
G.L.M., 24, 9" uncult & GWM, 34, 8" cut seek hot young slim smooth Asian/Latino bottoms in SF to service our 17" of prime manmeat, weekdays. Are you ready??? ☎ 71713

**There's Never Enough! Feed Me!**  
HIV- (38) handsome, submissive, eager, deep throated cock sucker available for your pleasure. ISO HIV-, masculine to 30-55. ☎ 71714

**Submissive Black Bottom**  
Hot mouth deep throat seeks verbal top who likes for a guy to kick back weekends & some evenings. ☎ 71715

**Shoot Your Load On My Face**  
If you're 65+ with a full load, this straight mature WM wants to get on my knees watch you JO. See, feel your hot cum on my face. ☎ 71741

**Nipple Boy ISO Pec Daddy**  
30+ romantic butch GH seeks 40+ affectionate GW muscle top to lick worship titillate. Poz pref. ☎ 71739

**Shut up.....And Ride!!!!!!**  
WM 35yo, 5'10", 200lbs, bi/bi muscle guy wants goodlooking masculine men to fuck. Also love to get massaged & jerked off. Anytime. ☎ 71716

**Wanted: Big Dicks**  
Goodlooking white guy, 38, 185lbs and 6ft. Seeks well hung studs to service. All nationalities welcome, but please, nobody over 40. ☎ 71717

**Hairy Top Stud**  
Me: 39, 170#, 5'9", buzzcut, stache, Goodlooking white guy, 8" cut, poz, aggressive, passionate total top; you: GWM, attractive, under 45, slutty, nasty bottomboy, eager to please horny daddy. ☎ 71738

**Latino Seek Gay Black Men**  
Age 39, 5'5", versatile, seeking GWM, 30-45 for hot and romantic sex encounters. ☎ 71749

**Dominant Gentle Seniors**  
ISO slightly dominant but gentle, affectionate seniors 60+ who want sensual oral pleasure by a WM 44, 6', 160lbs, dk hr, husky, bearded, groups a +, kink optional but no S&M, pain. ☎ 71740

**Strip For Daddy**  
Husky, E. Bay Daddy, 56, ISO son, 25-35. Show Daddy and Daddy will kiss it. NS, ND, no perfumes, sweaty ok. ☎ 71742

**Cumshot Video**  
Hot 30yo exhibitionist seeking hung, hot open-minded men who consistently shoot much larger than average loads for a video project. Your cumshot my face. Serious only please. ☎ 71743

**Black Dad Seeks.....**  
Dominant, tall, lanky, hairy, white, top son (21-35) with clean, tight, edible butt; big, cut cock. Dad: 40's, trim, wants to give oral pleasure or spanking. Dark hair A+. ☎ 71751

**Oil Turns Me On**  
36 5 10 180 GWM in good shape, looking for men into oily massage & sex, no attitude, race human, humor can't hurt. ☎ 71745

**Into Latex Sex**  
Latex sex is hot sex is safe sex! Always wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. Play safe! ☎ SAFE

**Attn: Poz Arab-Amer Man Who**  
Had ad wanting dentured deepthroat expert. If you have a moustache, thick cock, hairy, built, call me. I'm tall, lean, furry, all man. ☎ 71773

**Submissive for Hairy Master Type**  
GWM, 5'11", 145, 40, blo/bu, expert oral slave, cocksucker, butt eater (got chair) piss boy, body worshiper & licker pig sucker etc. Take me as your own service pig for hairy man who feels his power as I do. ☎ 71747

**Need Muscular Oral Tops**  
I'm looking to service good looking in shape guys. I'm 36, 5'6", 130lbs, clean cut, clean shaven, muscular, hairy chest. I like getting on my knees and taking orders. ☎ 71748

**My Hand..... Your Dick.....**  
Intense erotic hand & mouth workover for your cock & balls. Your hard dick will gush w/relief at my coaxing, always free no fee--- your place. ☎ 71750

**Looking for the Ultimate**  
Cocksucker for my big dick. Like it for a long time. Like deep throat. Attitude, energy, enthusiasm most important. Age, looks, race, not. ☎ 71752

**Hot Top Hung 8" Seeks Bottoms**  
For fun. I am 5'8", 160lbs, work out, hairy chest, blond, HIV-, 39, and handsome. You are sincere, friendly and want to play. ☎ 71753

**I Want To Be Your Cocksucker**  
White, 46, hairy, green eyes, brown hair, 5'8", heavy. Cocksucker. Ready anytime. Prefer Black and Latino. I just want to suck you off then you leave. ☎ 71779

**Grandfather Complex Anyone???**  
Lay down the law to this WWII vet by enjoying my expert mouth and tongue. Ass and assorted kink if desired. Sexual surrender offered to hunky top, any race Berkeley. ☎ 71744

**Play Doctor**  
It's been a year since my last physical. Give me a complete, nude scam-playful or humiliating, you decide. I'm late 30s,br/for hairy chest. ☎ 71775

**Handsome GWM-Cancer-42 HIV+**  
Healthy 6', 160lbs, buzz cut, tats, active monogamous, achiever, believer, kisser, plisser, dreamer, reamer, sucker, fucker, farmer, charmer, smoker, toker, drinker, stinker, horseman, carpenter, gardner. ☎ 71725

**Hot White Or Latino Bottoms**  
Are wanted by 56yr White top with big 9" cut cock. I want to fuck your hot ass. I'm 6'0" tall brn hair, brn eyes, glasses. You be 18-37 smooth bodied. ☎ 71776

**My Ultimate Fantasy**  
Is serving as sex slave for two, hung, muscular tops: verbal abuse, bondage, watersports, role plays, double anal penetration. I'm 6' buff, masculine mid 40's White boy. Use me! ☎ 781777

**Naked Ecstasy**  
Free erotic full body massage for lean tight-bodied guys 20 to early 40's masculine lean WM 42. Any race, short or tall, hairy or smooth. ☎ 71778

**18-30 Latinos Wanted**  
Seeking Latin me. you can be short or tall, a homeboy or cholo. Prefer smooth and uncult, shy, stocky. I have a thing for underwear, kissing and passion. ☎ 71746

**Drill Me**  
GWM, 34, 6'1", 190# brown, green, glasses, pierced seeks hung tops 18-45 to fuck my ass. Safe only. Hairy a plus. Weekdays, your place pref. Couples okay. ☎ 71774

**Asian Master Wants Slave**  
Asian Master wants to dominate and beat up GWM. You must be more than 190# and can take some pain. ☎ 71754

**Front And Rear Oral Service**  
By eager GWM, 38, 5'8", 125#, gym toned. Into sucking, rimming, drinking piss. You: looking for service, White/Latino. Please be in shape. ☎ 71780

## LESBIAN

**Seeking Lesbian**  
GWM European 24 seeks Lesbian to share experience. ☎ 71781

## FETISHES

**Daytime Asshole-Eater!!!!!!**  
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 71723

**Where To Go**  
To suck dick on Mon/Tues/Wed when Blow Buddies is closed? Mid-aged guy, beard, moustache, balding, craves studly cock. ☎ 71784

**This Italian Loves Cheese**  
BI Bottom 38, in San Jose seeks straight acting whites, Latinos, Blacks, 18-45 to clean your uncult dicks. Also into W/S, scat, sucking. No recip. needed. ☎ 71720

**2-3 Masochistic Subs Needed**  
For private birthday surprise for hot sadistic Dad. What can you take? Beating? Whipping? CBT? Clothespins? Heavier the better. Absolutely no pushy/controlling bottoms! ☎ 71718

**Naked Bear-on-Bear Rassin!!!**  
Strong hairy-muscled skinhead bear ISO other hairy-muscled bears for naked rassin. Limits respected but Rough and Dirty. Your rules or none; playful rattle or UFC slugfest. Gr-r-r-r-r-r-r!!!! ☎ 71719

**Young Slave For Dog Training**  
Very cute 26yo/ submissive boy from Eastern Europe wants to be fully dog-trailed by demanding dog trainer under 37. Full cooperation and obedience guaranteed. ☎ 71721

**\*\*\*\*\* Exhibitionist Pair \*\*\*\*\***  
He - boyish hung showoff w/huge spandex undie collection. Me - biker/bearish videographer seek like minded guys with new SF locations for BULGE and COCK worship scenes. ☎ 71724

**Bondage Toys SM Can Be Fun**  
With this hot, smooth, muscular 33yr old top. Enjoy wonderful, sweet agony of being bound, controlled, stimulated and submitting to an experienced leather top, (or tops) after a thorough training. ☎ 71756

**Former Self Sucker**  
Slim Daddy type, beard, moustache (whose body's no longer flexible enough) would love to watch you blow yourself if this is your favorite sexual activity. ☎ 71758

**Tit Play**  
Long time nipple freak, playful, oral, verbal, 5'4", 140lbs, 50, with big swollen nipples and an eager mouth and hands. Looking for other big nipped men for mutual pleasure. ☎ 71759

**Tom Is A Cute Little Pig With...**  
A voracious appetite for scat. I love to watch him chow down as some handsome hunk feeds him. If you're a star quality exhibitionist, try this. ☎ 71760

**Foot Fetish**  
Looking for foot lovers to massage my feet.(size 9). ☎ 71757

**Discreet Freak**  
You: like it wet, raunchy asshole, funky underwear, long hanging balls, 9"to10" cock, versatile 25-50. Me: BM, 39, 6'1", 175lbs, 9" cut, handsome, versatile, let's get each other off. ☎ 71761

**Brown And Yellow**  
Brown and yellow hunkies, right side, is my style. Being relieved and pleased in those ways is yours. Tireless hot mouth and tongue. Invite me to hot dinner or lunch. ☎ 71782

**Foot Worship: Foot Rubbing**  
Mutual foot contact toe wrestle, GWM, 37 seeks similar for foot play. ☎ 71783

**Very Thirsty Deep Throat**  
Expert has 6-pack for well endowed men who need sensual service. ☎ 71785

**Looking for the Ultimate Pig**  
Goodlooking, smooth, muscular, young top seeks human toilet (weekly feedings). New to scene but you won't be disappointed. Take care of my needs and this hot body is yours. ☎ 71755

**Muscle Worship**  
Gdkg- in shape aggressive slave for body builders. Must be muscle gods with arrogant masculine attitude & aggressive. Can travel S.F., Reno, Sac., Lake Tahoe. ☎ 71786

## COUPLES

**Are You Our Boy?**  
Daddy/Boy couple interested in including Boy/Slave in family. We enjoy life and having fun together. You should too. Be submissive, stable & fun. Take a chance Boy. ☎ 71762

**Seeking A Real Slave/Boy**  
Couple looking for slave/boy to include in our family. We enjoy life, having fun, and togetherness. You are submissive, dedicated, and ready for fun. Check us out boy! ☎ 71787

## OTHERS

**"Prefer A Homo-Sexual Male...."**  
Older straight white Englishman is available to be sodomized & beaten by dispassionate vigorous man. ☎ 71763

Safe sex is hot sex! ☎ SAFE



## Gay Comics #25

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57"X135#Smooth 23yo/ relaxing  
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# BAY AREA REPORTER PERSONALS

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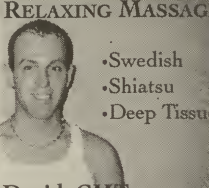
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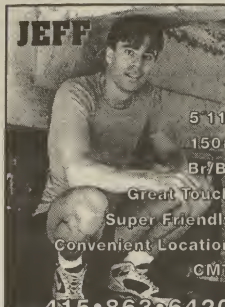


## MASSAGE


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Br/Bl  
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Super Friendly  
Convenient Location  
CMT

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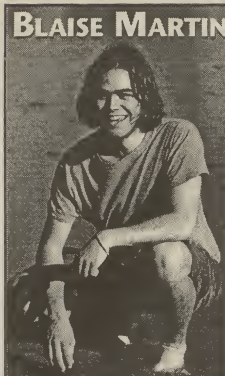


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NON-SEXUAL



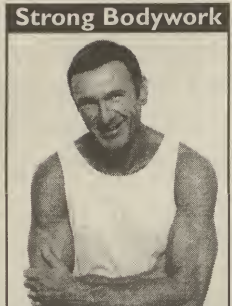
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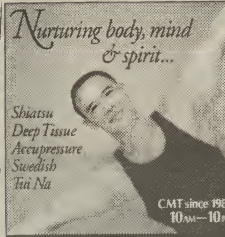


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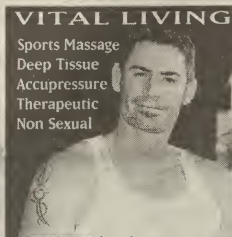
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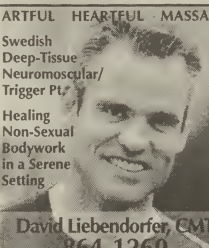


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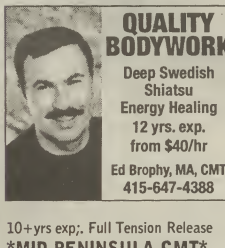
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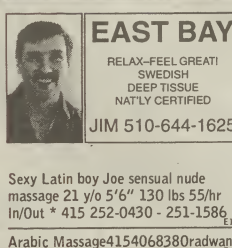
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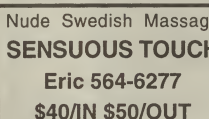


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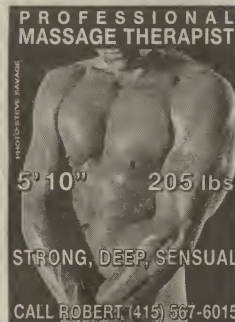
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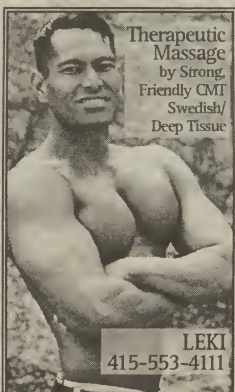
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\$75 90 min.  
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High quality therapeutic and sensual  
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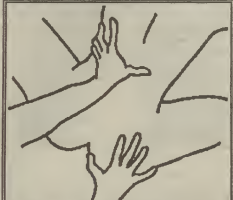
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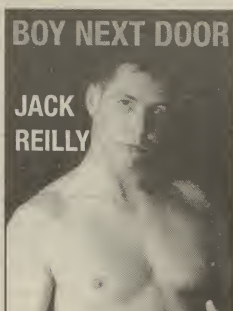
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For Soothing, Relaxing Touch Call  
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Sensual massage by nude masseur  
Bob \$25/Hr. \* 510-843-4408 <sup>E15</sup>

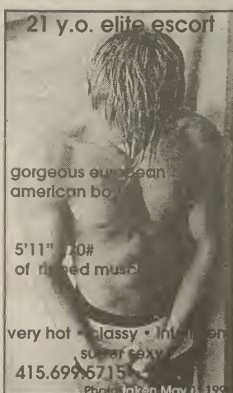
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Hot athletic 24 blond blu 5'10 145#  
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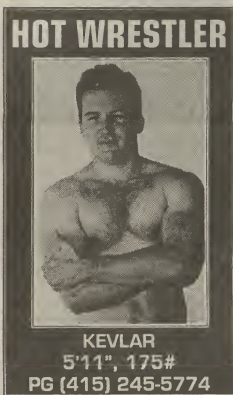
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gorgeous european  
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of ripped muscle  
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READY 2 TAKE  
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No Attitude, Handsome, Intelligent  
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Gd Lking Foot top 40yo, 6'1", 195#  
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Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs  
**ASIAN TOP**  
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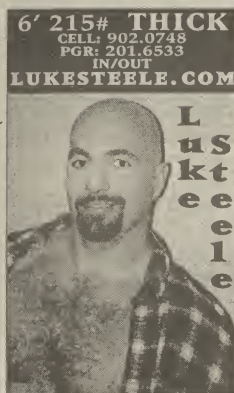
**LEATHER/SM/FANTASY**  
40yo top 6'1", 195# 7"uncut, flattop  
Gd/klng into bondage, s/m, w/s,  
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Be the happiest man alive 792-8028  
**CUTE ASIAN BOY**  
5'7" 135# sexy, slim, smooth 908-8888 <sup>E14</sup>

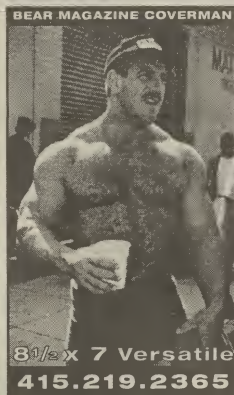
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Hot, horny, handsome \$65in/\$85out <sup>E14</sup>



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**BEAR MAGAZINE COVERMAN**  
8 1/2 x 7 Versatile  
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**BLK HANDSOME STUD TOP**  
Very discrete and friendly clean  
slim built with boyish looks and  
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first timers welcomed out only  
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Huge hung 10x7 size 11 feet  
nice balls loves to show off.  
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8" Nudist/Oral/Ken/346-4966/\$60 <sup>E18</sup>

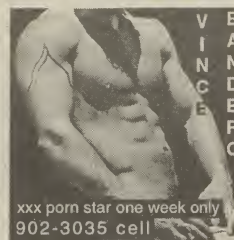
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Hung 10x7 34 6" 150# runners bld  
dominant mascln gentle strength  
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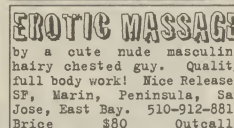
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Lean, athletic body- versatile  
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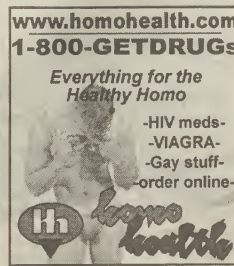
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Kicks back for service \*24Hours  
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w/thick hairy muscles 6'215#  
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24 hrs, 24 hrs, 24 hrs  
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27" waist • versatile  
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Thick 'n Meaty, Big 'n Low-Hangin'  
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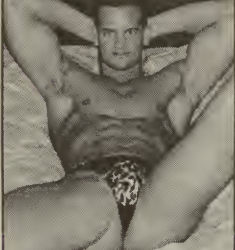
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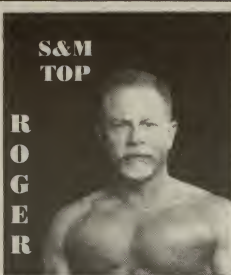
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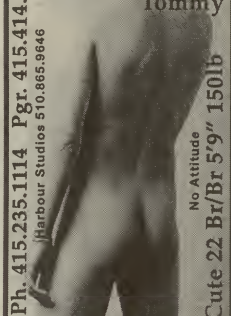
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GUY W/A BIG (10" UN)  
TOP/VERS GOOD LOOKING 33  
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Italian stud, black hair brn eyes  
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8"uncut. Outcalls, Pref/hotels. Gino  
22. model looks Hourly/over night  
Don't you want it now. 436-0402VM

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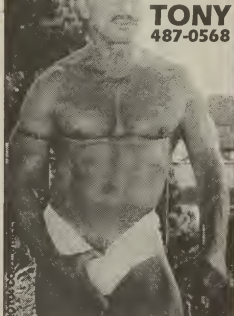
Stach, goatee, 6ft, 215lbs, brn, grn,  
hairy, hunky & hungry to service.  
Verstl bttm. handsome & a nice guy.  
\$85.00 out only. Hotels ok call:  
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## Dominant Leatherman

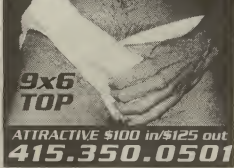
Bondage, 40yo,  
SM, WS, 6'1", 195#  
CBT, Brown Hair,  
F/F, flat top,  
Fetish, Blue Eyes,  
Slave, mustache,  
Training, 7" Uncut.



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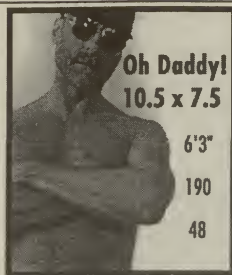
TALL 6'3" BRN/BLU 30'S  
GOOD LOOKING WELL HUNG 10"  
STUD TOP GUY A LOT OF FUN!  
SETH CALL ME 921-6129

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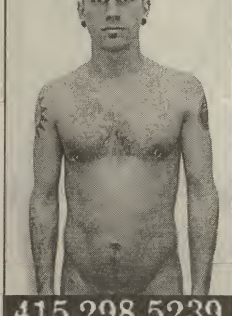
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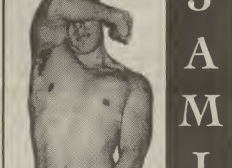


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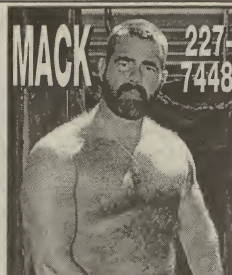
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eyes, great tan, shaved body, easy  
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Hndsm hungry massively endowed

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